MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 APRIL 1981

Lebanon

Air Raid in South--According to Beirut radio, Israeli planes bombed An-Nabatiyah and other areas in the south on 20 April. Citing the IDF spokesman, Jerusalem radio confirmed the raid, saying all planes had returned safely to base after scoring direct hits on their targets. Responding to several Beirut radio reports that Israeli forces were shelling Tyre and other southern towns, Jerusalem radio denied that Israel was responsible. According to the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio, the shelling continued throughout the afternoon of 20 April. Jerusalem radio also broadcast several reports about shelling of the Galilee panhandle from Lebanon. Although the shelling on 20 April caused no casualties, the radio said, two people were wounded when it was resumed 21 April.

Beirut Clashes--Beirut radio reported intense artillery and rocket duels throughout Beirut. Residential areas and Beirut international airport were among the areas hit. The Voice of Lebanon radio blamed the firing on the Arab Deterrent Forces, while the Voice of Palestine held the Phalangists responsible.

Kuwaiti Conference Offer--Responding to an earlier reported offer by Kuwait to host a conference on the Lebanese crisis, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has announced his acceptance of the proposal, KUNA reported. PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi also welcomed the proposal, KUNA said, stating that the PLO Executive Committee will discuss the official invitation when it is received. In comments to newsmen reported by KUNA, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah said the Kuwaiti ambassador to Lebanon has been instructed to pursue the matter with all parties concerned.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation--Tehran radio reported fighting on the southern fronts around Abadan and in the western regions of Ilam and Mehran. An Iraqi General Command communique, carried by INA, reported a number of engagements in western Iran, claiming that Iraqi forces killed 76 Iranians during a clash in the Mehran region.

Jordan on Syrian Involvement--Amman radio, citing the London newspaper DAILY MAIL, reported that Syrian MiG-23 fighters have supported Iranian planes in combat operations over Iraq and that they recently provided cover for eight Iranian Phantom aircraft that raided Iraqi targets and then landed at Syrian airfields.

Iran

MIZAN Ban Lifted--Tehran radio's English service, citing ENQELAH-E ESLAMI, reported that the ban on MIZAN has been lifted temporarily. According to AFP, MIZAN publisher Reza Sadr was released from jail after posting bail of 5 million rials. Speaking on the MIZAN office, Sadr characterized his arrest and the newspaper's closure as a direct attack on freedom of the press and said MIZAN will shortly reappear.

New Opposition Group--The clandestine Voice of Iran radio reported that a newly formed resistance group called Pars has distributed a communique inside Iran calling for a constitutional monarchy.

Talks With Soviet Envoy--Tehran radio reported that the trade minister held a 2-hour meeting with the Soviet ambassador in Tehran. They discussed ways to increase Soviet-Iranian trade and to improve the transit of goods between the two countries.

Iraq

According to reports by INA, the Soviet State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations chairman, Semen Skachkov, has held several meetings with Iraqi officials in Baghdad. On 19 April Skachkov and his delegation met with Industry and Minerals Minister Tahir Tawfiq, and the following day Skachkov discussed Soviet-Iraqi economic and technical cooperation with First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan.

Kuwait

KUNA reported that Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah and a delegation will visit the Soviet Union on 23 April at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East and Africa

Vol V No 076 *21 April 1981*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW 1

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Fatah's Abu Sharar Interviewed on PNC Session [VOP] A 1
Al-Fahum Cables Al-Asad at End of PNC Session A 3
Joint Forces Spokesman on Landmine Operation [VOP] A 4
Haddad Injured [VOP] A 4

ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT

As-Sabah Says Oil Weapon Will Be Used If Needed C 1

SAUDI ARABIA

Defense Minister Views Purpose of Gulf Council C 1

PDRY

President 'Ali Nasir Interviewed on Mideast Issues C 1

EGYPT

AL-JUMHURIYAH Calls for U.S. Pressure on Israel D 1
Ghazalah Views Military Policy, U.S. Facilities D 1
AL-AKHBAR Cites 'American Intelligence' on Chad D 1
Greece's Mitsotakis Holds Talks, Ends Visit D 2
As-Sadat Meeting, Remarks D 2
Agreements Signed D 2
20 Apr Departure D 2
As-Sadat Opens Conference of Advisers Body D 3
MAY Interviews As-Sadat on 'Uthman's Disputed Book D 3

IRAQ

USSR's Skachkov Sees Officials, Attends Meeting E 1
Tawfiq Reception E 1
Committee Meeting E 1
Ramadan Meeting E 1
Armed Forces General Command Communique 312 E 2
Syrian Revolutionaries Claim Destruction of Plane E 2

LEBANON

Pierre Al-Jumayyil Meets With U.S. Ambassador G 1
Al-Wazzan Questioned on Situation in South G 1
Speaker Al-As'ad Views Attacks on Lebanese Unity G 2
Skaf Holds Arabs, World Responsible for Crisis G 2
Bishopric in Sidon Reported Attacked, Burned G 3
Minister Iddih Decries Sidon Shelling, Burning G 3
Defense Minister Condemns Israeli Sidon Attack G 4
Mufti Khalif Departs for Algiers Visit 20 Apr G 5
Algeria Begins Efforts on Security Situation G 5
Ambassador Meets Al-Wazzan G 5

ADF 'Sources' Make Statements on Beirut, Zahlah G 6
Beirut Incidents G 6
Zahlah Siege Denial G 6
GDR, USSR Advisers Said Involved in Fighting G 6

ISRAEL

Jerusalem Believes U.S. May Shelve AWACS Deal I 1
Reaction 'Restrained' I 1
Air Force Attacks 'Terrorist Concentrations' I 1
French Participation in Sinai Force Opposed [HA'ARETZ 20 Apr] I 2
Begin Views Lebanon Situation, Other Issues [YEDI'OT AHARONOT 17 Apr] I 2
Begin Meets With UNIFIL Commander 21 Apr I 7
Air Commander Says Terrorists Training Pilots I 7
Rabin Terms Haig's Approach 'Simplistic' [YEDI'OT AHARONOT 17 Apr] I 7
Egypt Reduces Price of Oil Sold to Israel I 9
Major Haddad Admitted to Hospital for 'Rest' I 9
OTRAG To Build Satellite Launch Site in Syria [HA'ARETZ 21 Apr] I 9

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Nonaligned Conference on Namibia Ends 20 Apr Q 1
Ben Yahia Closing Speech Q 1
Final Communique Q 1

MAURITANIA

Al-Qadhdhafi Holds Third Meeting With Haydala Q 2

MOROCCO

Hassan Asks UN To Warn Algeria Against Aggression Q 2

SUDAN

Materials on Visit of Djibouti President Gouled Q 3
Gouled TV Statement Q 3
Numayri TV Statement Q 4
Joint Statement Q 4
Mirghani Views Libyan Threat, Egypt Relations Q 7

TUNISIA

Scientific Cooperation Talks Held With Mexico Q 7

WESTERN SAHARA

Communique Cites Victories Over Moroccan Forces Q 7

EAST AFRICA

SOMALIA

Communique Issued on Visit by Djibouti President R 1

CENTRAL AFRICA

CAMEROON

French Defense Minister Views Chad, Cooperation S 1

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

New Opposition Movement Holds National Conference S 1

WEST AFRICA

BENIN

Kerekou Comments on Results of Nigeria Visit T 1

GHANA

Vice President Returns With Dam, Food Aid Pledges T 2

LIBERIA

Initial Moscow-Monrovia Flight Scheduled 21 Apr T 2

NIGER

Suspected Libyan Agent Reported Arrested T 3

NIGERIA

Commentary Examines U.S. Policy Toward Continent T 3

UPPER VOLTA

Former Chief Judge Named Presidential Adviser T 4
University Student Strike Proves Abortive T 4

SOUTHERN AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

Security Forces Kill 'Terrorists' in Ovambo U 1

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Anniversary Address Appeals for Work, Unity U 1
Mugabe Interviewed on First Year of Independence U 1
Materials on Visit by SFRY Leaders 15-16 Apr [TANJUG] U 6
Mijatovic, Banana Speeches U 6
Communique Issued U 7

BRIEFS

French Aid to Mauritius; IMF Credit for Madagascar U 10

FATAH'S ABU SHARAR INTERVIEWED ON PNC SESSION

JN201900 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1636 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] Brothers: The Palestine National Council [PNC] ended its 15th session 2 [as heard] days ago. The Arab and world press and information media carried reports on and analyses of the work of this PNC session. Today, we meet with Brother Majid Abu Sharar, PNC member and member of the Fatah Central Committee, to give us a detailed analysis of the work of the 15th PNC session:

[Begin recording] [Abu Sharar] Amid the current circumstances through which our Palestinian people are passing, the PNC represents the will of the Palestinian people wherever they are found. Thus, it is the framework within which Palestinian decisions, which govern the PLO's policy, are made. These decisions guide the daily command--that is, the Executive Committee--in leading militant Palestinian action.

The PNC meetings are of special importance since they come after a delay of about 1 year and in a Palestinian situation that has stood fast in the past few years in the face of the fiercest attacks launched against the Palestinian revolution by U.S. imperialism and Zionism and their agent forces in the region. Many thought that by intensifying the onslaught against the PLO and the Palestinian people inside the occupied land or in Lebanon, they would weaken and liquidate us. Our camps and bases and the Lebanese villages in southern Lebanon have been subjected for years to recurrent Israeli attacks with the aim of weakening and liquidating us. However, here we are meeting in our PNC to proclaim to the entire world that the Palestinian people will continue to exist, that their revolution will continue and that their determination to continue the struggle until victory is still strong and alert.

Now that the 8 days which witnessed the meeting of the PNC are over, the Palestinians are emerging once again from their new session stronger and abler to continue the struggle until victory. Therefore, the PNC session is an indication of power and the Palestinian people's determination to cling and be committed to their institutions. It is an indication that we seek to develop these institutions in order to serve our struggle.

This session was rich with important debates, through which we were able to draft our political statement and our political proclamation and to elect the new executive committee. Many PNC members spoke on several important political issues. The PNC was unanimous in sending greetings to our steadfast people in the occupied land--in towns, villages, the Negev, upper Galilee and the occupation jails--where thousands of our people are standing fast and where the Zionist enemy is unable to shake their strong will. Greetings were addressed to our people in the occupied land by all the speakers. Furthermore, the discussions dealt with the best means to bolster the steadfastness of our people in the occupied land. The Occupied Homeland Affairs Committee, one of the major committees that stemmed from the PNC, heard important reports on the situation in the occupied homeland. It submitted extremely important recommendations to the PNC which were discussed and endorsed.

One of the most important recommendations endorsed by the PNC was doubling material aid to our people in the occupied land and giving material support to our people in the Galilee and the Negev, where they are facing continuous pressure to force them to sell or desert their land. Moreover, several resolutions were made to escalate political and military action inside the occupied land. The PNC confirmed the resolution it took during its 13th session. This resolution stipulates the establishment of a dialogue with Jewish democratic and progressive forces in Israel that are hostile to Zionism, and seeking to bolster and enrich this dialogue in order to bring about the desired objective.

On the level of our general policy, the subject of the relationship with Jordan consumed a large and basic part of the debates. We reached a conviction that the regime in Jordan has placed serious obstacles before any attempt to insure the success of the dialogue with it.

Regarding the joint committee--that is, the Palestinian-Jordanian Joint Coordination Committee to bolster our people's steadfastness in the occupied land--there were two viewpoints. One viewpoint called for cancelling this committee and searching for other means to send support to our people in the occupied land. The second viewpoint called for retaining this committee and strengthening the role of the Palestinian side on it. The conference adopted the second viewpoint. It was decided to retain the committee while seeking to strengthen the Palestinian role on it on the basis of holding discussions with the Arab regimes in order to channel future support only through the PLO.

[Question] In its 15th session the PNC also discussed the initiatives and proposals pertaining to the Middle East, such as the Brezhnev and the European initiatives. How did the PNC analyze these issues? How did it deal with them?

[Answer] It is true that the European initiative was one of the important issues discussed at the PNC. In our political resolutions, we affirmed that it was the duty of the PLO to bolster its political and diplomatic moves with regard to West Europe. This means that we do not neglect this important section of world public opinion. West Europe is a political force which has weight and bearing on the making of international decisions.

We must not, however, fall into illusions. We must understand that West Europe's political decision has been until this moment a prisoner of U.S. politics, which rule and predominate West European politics. This surely does not mean that we should present a cold shoulder. We must deal with the issue with the aim of transforming this situation. We must develop the West European position on our cause because the West European position is at present a prisoner of the U.S. position. Therefore, the discussion of the European initiative is not based on objective facts because there is no European initiative. If a European initiative were presented while Europe is in its present position, this initiative would only be based on the Camp David grounds and will necessarily serve the U.S. policy in the region.

The proposals presented by Comrade Brezhnev at the 26th Congress of the CPSU last month have occupied an important part of the PNC's attention and discussions. We were able to reach a unanimous evaluation of these proposals. The council declared that it welcomes Brezhnev's proposals on the Palestinian problem and the Middle East crisis as presented in the 26th Congress of the CPSU, particularly the proposals which stressed the role of the PLO in any solution of the Middle East issue, the Palestinian people's legitimate rights--including their right to establish their independent state--the UN resolutions pertaining to Palestine and the need to give the UN a role in solving this problem. We appreciated the USSR's stand on our cause and toward our people and considered that our relations with the USSR are relations of strategic alliance. These relations must be strengthened and affirmed in the service of our struggle and that of the struggling and peace-loving forces in the world.

[Question] Brother Abu Salamah, (?let us conclude) with the issue of national unity on the Palestinian level. Much is being said by Palestinians and Arabs on the street about the issue of Palestinian national unity. What is the latest on this issue in terms of the PNC's discussions? Is it possible that this national unity will be a result of a PNC decision? What are the roles of the Palestinian leaderships in deepening the national unity, especially the role of the Palestinian cadres in the Palestinian revolution?

[Answer] Undoubtedly, Palestinian national unity does not result from a decision. It is an arduous and painstaking process of struggle. We must practice this process of struggle in order to improve the present national unity formula and elevate it in order to reach the Palestinian national front which will include all the resistance factions and the national forces fighting against occupation.

Some of the brothers at the PNC have raised the issue of establishing a Palestinian national front abroad. There is no doubt that this constitutes a great ambition, yet it does not mean that we are not tackling our present situation.

As for the issue of Palestinian national unity, we had a very important matter to discuss. Several proposals were made that underlined the importance and the necessity of having representation for the organizations that are still outside the framework of the PLO Executive Committee, namely, the Palestine Liberation Front [PFL] and the Popular Struggle Front [PSF]. Other proposals underlined the necessity of having the communists represented because of their struggle inside the occupied land. However, the PNC managed during this session only to include the PFLP within the framework of the PLO Executive Committee. This does not mean the end of everything. On the contrary, we have to struggle during the coming session for achieving wider representation on the Executive Committee.

In this session we decided that the PLF and the PSF are fully recognized Palestinian organizations that are represented on the PNC and the PLO Central Council. In the past they were represented only as independents. We also directed the new PLO Executive Committee to appoint two representatives of these two organizations to the PLO Executive Committee as observer members who shall attend all meetings and debates yet have no right to vote.

This definitely constitutes a serious achievement on the path of further strengthening Palestinian national unity. We still have difficult stages of the struggle for achieving the national unity which we all desire, so we must first strengthen our struggle in order to bring about the comprehensive national unity.

[Question] Brother Abu Salamah, would you like to add any other points that we failed to mention during this interview?

[Answer] We talked in detail at the PNC about the Arab countries' support for the steadfast kinfolk inside the occupied land. We reached a conclusion that this support barely meets the least of our kinfolks' needs because the kinfolk inside the occupied land are lacking educational, health, agricultural and industrial services. Therefore, the only way we can help the steadfast kinfolk is by increasing the Arab countries' support for them.

In conclusion I want to say that this PNC session was successful and that we discussed our causes and issues with a high level of seriousness and feelings of responsibility. We achieved political resolutions and managed to strengthen our national unity, even if it wasn't in the way we actually desired. Yet as I said earlier, this constitutes a step forward.

I also want to say that the Palestinian revolution is proving, day after day, that it is a strong revolution, a developing revolution, a revolution that is capable of facing all the attempts of imperialism, its agents and Israel to strike at us and to weaken us. The days are continuously showing that we are consistantly proceeding forward, that we are capable of marching forward, and always forward, until we bring about our slogan of establishing the independent Palestinian state and obtaining our rights to repatriation and to self-determination. [end recording]

AL-FAHUM CABLES AL-ASAD AT END OF PNC SESSION

JN201703 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Apr 81

["Text" of greetings cable from Khalid al-Fahum, Palestine National Council speaker, to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad at the end of the council's 15th session--date not given]

[Text] In the name of all the members of the Palestine National Council [PNC] and in my name, I express to Your Excellency our deep appreciation for and pride in your firm pan-Arab struggle stands on supporting the Palestinian issue and confronting the imperialist-Zionist conspiracies to liquidate the Palestinian issue and to plot against the legitimate national rights of our people.

Dear Mr President, we will never forget Syria's and your wise leadership's leading and historic role in defending and supporting the pan-Arab issue, particularly the Palestinian issue. Our people will always remember what revolutionary Syria and yourself offered and are offering for the Palestinian revolution and its victorious march.

I would also like to express the PNC members' appreciation for the efforts of and facilities provided by the brother Syrian officials to make the PNC's work a success. We stress that the convocation of the PNC 15th session in revolutionary Syria and your historic pan-Arab speech at its opening will remain a witness to the firm and strategic pan-Arab relationship also between the Palestian revolution and revolutionary Syria.

JOINT FORCES SPOKESMAN ON LANDMINE OPERATION

JN191728 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Excerpt] The military spokesman of the operations room of the joint forces has stated the following:

Our forces planted a number of mines on the Marj 'Uyun-[name indistinct] route in the occupied border strip. This is the military route recently opened by the Zionist-isolationist alliance and which it uses to launch its attacks against the south.

At 0735 this morning the mines exploded under two personnel vehicles belonging to the enemy alliance, resulting in the destruction of the vehicles and the killing and wounding of those in them. The enemy radio in Hebrew in its newscast at 1530 this afternoon admitted the deaths of four members of traitor Haddad's militias in this operation. The radio said that a vehicle belonging to the militias had hit a landmine, killing its driver. Another vehicle which came to the rescue of the first car was also destroyed when it hit another landmine. One member of the militia was immediately killed and two others were injured and died later while on their way to a Zionist hospital.

Haddad Injured

JN191847 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1745 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Reports from the occupied border strip say that one of those wounded in the landmine explosions in the border strip was traitor Sa'd Haddad. The enemy radio said in Hebrew that Haddad was admitted to the intensive care unit of one of the Haifa hospitals, that his health is very bad and that a special team of doctors is continuously supervising treatment of traitor Haddad.

KUWAIT

AS-SABAH SAYS OIL WEAPON WILL BE USED IF NEEDED

LD191648 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1510 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Text] Beirut, 19 Apr (KUNA)--The deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Kuwait, Shaykh Sa. h al-Ahmad as-Sabah, has expressed his belief that the time for using the Arab oil weapon to put pressure on the United States "has not come." He said in an interview with the Lebanese MONDAY MORNING that he is only able to speak in the name of one Arab oil producing country, Kuwait, from which the United States imports little oil, so it is difficult to use oil as a means by which to apply pressure. On the issue of using oil as a political weapon he added, "One cannot use this weapon all the time, but will that prevent me from using it if I find someday that I need to use it?" He said, "As far as Kuwait is concerned, if the time comes to use the oil weapon, we will use it." The minister then spoke about the facilities granted to the United States by some states in the region and said, "Those facilities were granted because of special circumstances: Had those circumstances not emerged, the facilities would not have been granted." He explained the "circumstances" as the disputes between certain states but did not elaborate.

SAUDI ARABIA

DEFENSE MINISTER VIEWS PURPOSE OF GULF COUNCIL

LD181238 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Text] His Royal Highness Amir Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation, confirmed that the Gulf states and their peoples are aware of all that is being hatched against them and that this is what makes them confident that the Gulf Cooperation Council will serve all these states and peoples. His royal highness, in a statement published by 'UKAZ today, said that the council is not directed against anyone and that the cooperation existing between its members is the best proof that it is aimed only at serving the interests of the region and that it endeavors to devote coordination in the service of its peoples. He pointed out that cooperation and coordination came into existence in the shadow of cohesion and that this cohesion gave rise to the Gulf Cooperation Council and pushed it in the right direction. He again confirmed that coordination and cooperation among Gulf States was growing at the highest and best levels.

On the current situation in Lebanon his royal highness said that the kingdom believes that the matter concerns, first and foremost, the Lebanese people and its legitimate government. It then concerns what the Arab League and its members decide which represents complete Arab administration.

Concerning the Iraqi-Iranian conflict, his royal highness said that the kingdom made efforts through the Islamic group established by the third Islamic summit.

PDRY

PRESIDENT 'ALI NASIR INTERVIEWED ON MIDEAST ISSUES

LD192018 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1245 GMT 19 Apr 81 EA

[Text] Last Friday the Lebanese newspaper AS-SAFIR published an interview with Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and of the Council of Ministers.

The interview dealt with the situation in Lebanon and its effects on the Arab situation, as well as the situation in the Horn of Africa, the PDRY initiative announced at the At-Ta'if Islamic Conference summit, relations between the PDRY and socialist Ethiopia, the so-called mediation between the PDRY and the Sultanate of Oman, relations with Iraq, the efforts being made to implement the unity agreements signed by the two parts of Yemen, the results of the visits paid by the presidents of Djibouti and the SDAR to Aden, and the Mauritanian-Moroccan dispute. We present a summary of Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's replies to the questions put to him by AS-SAFIR:

Replying to the paper on the situation in Lebanon and Yemen's position, Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad said: For a considerable period of time fraternal Lebanon has been the victim of a multiphased imperialist-Zionist conspiracy. The aims of the conspiracy go beyond the borders of Lebanon to inflict serious damage on our national causes of destiny, above all the just cause of the Palestinian Arab people. The phases of the conspiracy began with inciting denominational arrogance and provoking the civil war, followed by armed Israeli aggression on southern Lebanon, and now the political schemes put up by the imperialist and Zionist circles with the aim of achieving what previous chapters failed to achieve.

They are now using their puppet, [word indistinct] Sa'd Haddad, to provide them with a political pretext to complete the hostile conspiracy against Lebanon. This is clear from his recent appeals to Israel to intervene militarily in Lebanon, which were also used to back up the aggressive statements made by the Israeli defense minister a few days ago when he threatened military intervention in Lebanon.

It seems the imperialist powers are now laying the ground for new conspiratorial political moves to provide new conditions for the completion of the conspiracy. Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad added: The features of these moves have been revealed through the call of the European Parliament for the withdrawal of what it called foreign troops from Lebanon. There is no doubt that what is meant here is the Arab Deterrent Force, which is at the present moment obstructing the success of the partition conspiracy and the imposition of Israeli hegemony over Lebanon. This call is in line with the declarations of the U.S. secretary of state, in which he asserted that Israel's security must be considered of vital interest to the United States.

He expressed the view that all these moves are in preparation for a new phase of the dirty conspiracy against the fraternal people of Lebanon. He said: We are confident that the fateful, militant, cohesiveness binding the Lebanese national and the Palestine liberation movements will ever remain a strong rock on which this conspiracy will be shattered. To the same extent, we have seen in Syria's steadfastness in the face of the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary designs a source of strength for the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. Accordingly we esteem the great part played by Syria in maintaining security and peace in Lebanon and backing the Lebanese people's steadfastness against threats and dangers resulting from the alliance between Israel and the isolationists.

We also esteem the responsible attitude of the Lebanese National Movement, which has shown concern for Lebanon's integrity and sovereignty. The movement's struggle has contributed toward preventing Lebanon being turned into a theater for aggressive conspiracies to protest the Zionist enemy's security over the dead bodies of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

He expressed the belief that acting to consolidate the legitimate government's role in exercising authority in all parts of Lebanon, and particularly the isolationist areas now outside the domain of legitimate authority, would constitute a practical beginning toward achieving security and peace in Lebanon and aborting the conspiracy aimed at destabilizing Lebanon, severing its extremities and partitioning its national entity.

On Democratic Yemen's views on the effects of events in Lebanon on the Arab situation in general, Brother 'Ali Nasir said: The aggressive imperialist strategy against our Arab peoples is a single one, but its links are distributed all over the Arab homeland. The essence of this strategy lies in its tendency toward military aggression, its aim being to sabotage peace and security as a prelude to direct imperialist military intervention which would culminate in the realization of full imperialist domination over the potential, resources and destiny of our Arab peoples and the liquidation of the Arab national liberation movement. What is happening in Lebanon, therefore, applies to the Arab region in general which is now witnessing large scale moves by imperialist circles bent on a new round of international imperialist aggressive provocations against our Arab peoples in collaboration with the reactionary and puppet forces and regimes in the region. He added that there were a number of indicators in this direction that were no longer unknown. He said: The imperialists are trying to conspire against Syria's heroic steadfastness by using Lebanon. The reactionary Muslim Brotherhood, too, have failed to bring off their conspiracies. Libya is being subjected to the massing of troops and provocations on the part of As-Sadat's puppet regime. There are similar attempts to break up the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, which presently constitutes the basis of the Arab peoples' steadfastness in resisting the conspiratorial Camp David designs.

In the case of the Peninsula and Gulf region, imperialism is practising the method of frightening the states in the region with imaginary threats with the intention of blackmailing them politically, militarily and economically by means of arms deals, increased oil exports and the use of Arab territory for the construction of aggressive imperialist military bases. It is therefore clear that imperialist designs and conspiracies against our Arab peoples are well worked out and diversified. All of them aim at extending the influence of world imperialism over the potential and resources of our Arab peoples. Destroying their national liberation movement and effacing their legitimate rights, above all the rights of the Arab Palestinian people to return home and build their independent state.

Replying to the paper on press reports that Democratic Yemen had tried to mediate between Ethiopia and Somalia during Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's recent visit to Addis Ababa, Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad said: Somalia requested us to mediate to solve the Somali-Ethiopian differences. We did, in fact, make contacts in this regard, but we discovered that Somalia had asked several parties to mediate, without one party knowing about the mediation of the other.

Replying to another question, Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad pointed out that in reality there were no differences with Somalia. There is only our feeling that the imperialist military bases there do not affect Somali sovereignty alone but also the sovereignty and security of all the states and peoples in the region, and above all our own country. For our part we stand firm in our position of opposing the presence of these aggressive bases on Somali territory.

The paper asked Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad for his assessment of the response evoked by his call at the At-Ta'if Islamic summit for a summit of the states of the Gulf, the Peninsula and the Horn of Africa. Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad said that a number of countries had responded to the call, particularly those with no military bases in their areas and who were aware of their patriotic and national responsibilities and duties to protect their national sovereignty and the security and stability of the peoples of the region. For our part we shall continue to strive to convince the other parties in view of the seriousness of the military moves and designs in the region and the importance of joint, responsible and concerted efforts to ward off these dangers.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad described relations between Democratic Yemen and socialist Ethiopia as excellent and said they were moving forward. The Yemeni-Ethiopian friendship treaty had opened wider horizons to consolidate those relations in various fields and without limits on the basis of the unity of goals and common principles of the Yemeni and Ethiopian revolutions.

Referring to the mediation between Democratic Yemen and the Sultanate of Oman, the comrade secretary general explained that Democratic Yemen had some time ago agreed to mediation and welcomed fraternal Arab efforts in this connection. He said: We were surprised, however, when the Sultanate of Oman went ahead and granted the United States military bases, hostile not only to our country but also to all the states and peoples of the region.

Replying to a question from AS-SAFIR on relations with Iraq, Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad said: We have never been the cause of the stagnation of relations with Iraq. We are not opposed to normal relations if our brothers in Iraq take the initiative of showing a similar, sincere, desire to establish equal relations on the basis of mutual respect for sovereignty, nonintervention in internal affairs and constructive cooperation.

On joint efforts with the leadership of the northern part of the homeland to implement the unity agreements signed by the two parts, Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad said: We are moving ahead with determination to realize the unity of our country on peaceful and democratic foundations. I can say that relations between the two states have witnessed development and improvement worthy of satisfaction and optimism. For our part we shall make every effort to strengthen cooperation and coordination in all fields and without limits and overcome all difficulties in order to achieve all that we have agreed upon with Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. As for those who do not like cooperation and coordination between the two parts and are displeased by the stability and security of our country, we are quite capable of exposing them and their [word indistinct] intentions.

On the results of the visit of the president of Republic of Djibouti to Democratic Yemen, Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad said: President Hassan Gouled's visit was important for both sides, as it gave us the opportunity of exchanging views on many vital issues of common interest to the two neighboring countries. Our views concurred on numerous issues, such as the peaceful settlement of differences between the countries of the region and the Horn of Africa on the basis of the OAU Charter and decisions. Our views also concurred on the importance of developing relations between the two countries. We stressed the need to mobilize efforts to keep our region a zone of security and peace.

On the results of the Saharan president's visit to Aden, Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad said: Of course, it is known that we have excellent relations with Polisario. We recognized the SDAR in evidence of our respect for the right of the Saharan people to self-determination. The talks between us and Brother President Muhammad 'Abd al-'Aziz confirmed the development of bilateral relations and the need for their promotion. We agreed on taking a number of steps in this direction Our country will continue to help and support the Saharan people to achieve their full freedom. Our position conforms with what has been stressed by the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front states, and many others in different continents which have recognized the SDAR.

Replying to the paper on the Mauritanian-Moroccan dispute and the message of the president of Mauritania to Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, he said: First of all I want to stress that, regardless of the state of relations between the two countries, we oppose any foreign intervention in the affairs of other countries. We condemn and reject the foreign intervention in Mauritania. It is wrong for anyone to imagine that a ruling regime can be created in another country simply because that country is in dispute with him. We support the right of every people to choose the regime they want. We support every people defending their sovereignty against foreign intervention of any kind. This applies to our position on the Mauritanian-Moroccan dispute. Besides all this we esteem Mauritania's realistic attitude on the Saharan issue. We regard it as a responsible and civilized attitude, reflecting concern that the people of the Sahara should be given the right to self-determination.

AL-JUMHURIYAH CALLS FOR U.S. PRESSURE ON ISRAEL

NC190651 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2250 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 18 Apr (MENA)--The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH calls on the U.S. administration to make Israel recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In its Sunday editorial, the paper says that if the United States did that it would not only serve the rights of the Palestinians but it would also serve U.S. national interests.

The paper notes that it is necessary for the new U.S. administration to know that its interests with the Arab side are much greater than its interest with the Israeli side. The United States should also know that if it wants the oil to continue to flow to the United States and to its allies it is the Arab force which guarantees it, not the Israeli force.

The paper also notes that it would be wrong for the United States to imagine that its interests in the Middle East can be secured by weakening and dividing the Arabs and by strengthening Israel at their expense. The paper adds that if the United States realized that its interests rests with the Arab side then, by this logic, it can act to bring pressure on Israel over the pending basic problems between Israel and the Arabs.

GHAZALAH VIEWS MILITARY POLICY, U.S. FACILITIES

NC182058 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1915 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 18 Apr (MENA)--Lt Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, minister of defense and war production and commander in chief of the armed forces, tonight met with members of the Foreign, Arab and National Security Affairs Committee of the Consultative Council under the chairmanship of Dr Sayyid Nawfal. The defense minister reviewed with the committee members the serious threats around Egypt and the Middle East and affirmed that the Middle East represents the principal arena of struggle of the big powers to control the oil resources of the Middle East and Africa.

Lieutenant General Abu Ghazalah also reviewed the areas of Soviet and Cuban presence in Africa and the danger this presents to the security of Africa and the Middle East. Lieutenant General Abu Ghazalah also affirmed that Egypt is building its armed forces according to a detailed plan that will ensure they will achieve the highest combat efficiency and will provide them with the most sophisticated arms and equipment, while at the same time maintaining the available arms and equipment from the East, as these are a national wealth and are being constantly developed for further efficiency.

Lieutenant General Abu Ghazalah, noting that Egypt rejects any foreign bases on its territory, said: We have no objection to granting facilities for the U.S. forces in Ra's Banas.

The defense minister also reviewed at the meeting the question of the final Israeli withdrawal from Sinai and the formation of an international peacekeeping force there. He stressed that the implementation of the peace agreement is proceeding without any difficulties or obstacles in accordance with the timetable set in the agreements.

AL-AKHBAR CITES 'AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE' ON CHAD

NC210842 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 21 Apr 81

[From the press review]

[Text] On the situation in Chad, AL-AKHBAR reports that American intelligence sources have stated that the Libyan concentrations in Chad and the forces that Hissein Habre is gathering at his bases in eastern Chad and northwestern Sudan threaten the occurrence of clashes which may include Egypt and in which Nigeria, France and the major powers may become involved.

GREECE'S MITSOTAKIS HOLDS TALKS, ENDS VISIT

As-Sadat Meeting, Remarks

NC191617 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat, this afternoon received Greek Foreign Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis at the Al-Qanatir al-Khayriyah resthouse. Mitsotakis is currently on a visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali.

Following the meeting President as-Sadat expressed his happiness over the settlement of all outstanding problems between Egypt and Greece. He asked the Greek foreign minister to convey his sincere greetings to Greek President Karamanlis and an invitation for him to visit Egypt.

President as-Sadat praised the good Egyptian-Greek relations, which date back a long time. He commended the Greek people's support for Egypt when the late President 'Abd an-Nasir nationalized the Suez Canal in 1956. All the radio officers at Athens airport, he said, told the entire world that they supported that step.

President as-Sadat emphasized that Egypt will never forget Greece's support. He added: The Greek community is considered the community that has mixed the most with the Egyptian people. They live with us like brothers.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali also made a statement following the meeting:

[Begin recording] As the president said just a few moments ago, he reviewed with the Greek foreign minister bilateral relations and the positions of Egypt and Greece on the peace process in the Middle East. There is an identity of views between the two countries on everything connected with this important issue. Greece fully appreciates the role Egypt is playing in the service of peace.

Their discussion also covered what has been agreed upon between the Greek and Egyptian sides in all fields regarding the outstanding problems between the two countries. These outstanding problems were resolved today, thanks be to God. [end recording]

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister also said that President as-Sadat has accepted an invitation to visit Greece and that an invitation has also been extended to Greek President Karamanlis to visit Egypt. As yet, no date has been set for either visit.

Agreements Signed

NC192142 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Excerpt] This evening, Egypt and Greece signed a number of agreements resolving all pending issues between the two countries regarding Egyptian workers in Greece, maritime transportation, nontransferable assets and the Egyptian religious building in Kavala in Greece. The agreements were signed for Egypt by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and for Greece by Foreign Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis. After the signing ceremony Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that what has been attained during the Greek foreign minister's visit to Egypt is an achievement that will contribute to bolstering bilateral relations.

20 Apr Departure

NC201310 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 20 Apr (MENA)--Greek Foreign Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis left Cairo at noon today for home, concluding a 5-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali.

In a statement before his departure, the Greek foreign minister said he was happy to meet with President as-Sadat who gave him full details on the Middle East situation.

Mitsotakis commended the generosity and hospitality of the Egyptian people. He added that his talks with the Egyptian officials during the visit reflected complete agreement and an identity of views on all outstanding issues between the two countries.

The Greek foreign minister was seen off by Kamal Hasan 'Ali who, commenting on Mitsotakis' statement, said that the Greek delegation's visit was of special importance at this particular time because of Greece's relations with the Arab states and its links with the EC. Egyptian Ambassador to Greece Sa'd Al-'Afrah, who attended the Egyptian-Greek talks, also left on the same plane.

AS-SADAT OPENS CONFERENCE OF ADVISERS BODY

NC181712 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat today opened the first conference of the body of advisers. The conference, whose activities began this morning, will continue for 3 days. On the occasion, the president delivered a statement in which he explained and analyzed his visualization of the work of the body of the advisers. He also dealt with the dimensions of the domestic and external political situation as well as development affairs.

Engineer Sayyid Mar'i, the chairman of the body of advisers, said:

[Begin recording] The body of advisers today held its first meeting with the president. As had been previously agreed, the president was scheduled to speak about the nature of the advisers' work as he visualizes it. The session began around 1130 and continued until 1400. During the session, the president discussed a number of topics. He dealt with the nature of the work of the body of advisers and explained that it complements the work of the existing Executive Committee, the Consultative Council and the People's Assembly. He also explained that it is one of the new Consultative Council's channels through which scientific research can be conducted. In his statement, As-Sadat said that the body of advisers can tackle a specific topic whether it is referred to it by the president or had been discussed by the body and then referred to the president. [end recording]

Sayyid Mar'i added that the president explained the domestic situation in relation to democracy in Egypt and its development, on one hand, and his visualization of the role of the majority party and the role of the opposition, on the other. The president then moved to such important questions that concern the people as prices, development, food security, housing and utilities. He also explained the open-door policy and evaluated its results in relation to importation, the role of national and foreign banks, the banks' participation in development and the future map of Egypt.

The president then moved to foreign policy. His excellency explained the Arab situation and the situation in Iraq, Morocco, Libya, Saudi Arabia and Jordan; the situation pertaining to the Palestinians; the situation in Lebanon and Syria; Egypt's attitude toward events in the Arab world; and Egypt's relationship with the United States and the Soviet Union.

MAY INTERVIEWS AS-SADAT ON 'UTHMAN'S DISPUTED BOOK

NC201010 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 20 Apr (MENA)--President Anwar as-Sadat has stressed that the history of leaders should be told in a family manner without resorting to the old method of airing grudges and settling accounts. We must not forget what these leaders did for their country and people, the president says. This came in an exclusive interview with President Anwar as-Sadat published in today's issue of the weekly MAY.

In the interview the president discusses the book written by Deputy Prime Minister for Popular Development Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman in which he charges that the late President Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir used his influence to build two villas for his two daughters.

The president emphasizes that he read 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman's book only after excerpts from it were published in the press and that he immediately ordered a factfinding committee to be formed to look into the contents of the book. The president also says that he will ask the Cabinet to consider reimposing some kind of censorship--but only on books by political officials--that would give legal guarantees that books by political officials cannot be published before having been reviewed. Ordinary books, however, will not be subject to any censorship, he adds.

The following is the text of President as-Sadat's interview with MAY:

Question: The point that is most common in the questions asked by the public is this: "Didn't President as-Sadat read Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman's book before it was published, or, in other words, didn't Engineer 'Uthman seek President as-Sadat's opinion on the contents of the book before writing it?"

Answer: I would have liked to have begun this interview with you by answering your question about the National Democratic Party [NDP] and the construction process we are currently engaged in. However, as you said, the question about 'Uthman's book imposes itself and takes priority at this moment. In fact, perhaps one could say that all these topics are interrelated and form one structure. You and the public might wonder, for example, about the connection between Engineer 'Uthman's book and the construction process we are talking about, beginning with the NDP and so on. Indeed, there is a connection because the exercise of democracy forms the basis of the new construction.

Publishing a book written by an official or an ordinary citizen that deals with a past or present political period is part of the exercise that I have always insisted must be democratic for the sake of construction. It should above all be based on the values of the homeland, which has maintained its character and basic principles of thousands of years, and this includes the days of foreign rule and blind party conflicts between 1923 and 1952--when the July revolution broke out--followed by the perfection of these principles and values in a family society that, after the May revolution, restored Egypt's strength and position in the world.

The president continues: To go back to your question, I agree with you fully that this question imposes itself. In fact, I have been informed about the uproar the book has caused among the public. I have also heard that some people could not believe that 'Uthman issued this book without first having consulted me on its subject matter. I say that some people--a few--have raised this question and they had no doubt that Engineer 'Uthman had my advance approval of the book. I say a few people because the vast majority of my people know me as well as I know them. They never misunderstood me even during the most difficult periods. Before and after the battle, the entire popular base continued to support me and to believe what I said because they were accustomed to my doing what I say and saying what I do.

When I said that I would wage a battle, the vast popular base believed me. A very small minority of the people--the group I call the bubbles--did not believe me and began to cast doubt on what I said. The same thing is happening now. Those who suspect that I might have read 'Uthman's book before it was published do not--thank God--represent the broad popular base, which has never doubted me. Even that small minority can be divided into two groups: those who doubt but have good intentions, and those who doubt but have ill intentions.

President as-Sadat adds: We can find an excuse for the minority, who doubted with good intentions. The link between me and 'Uthman was sufficient to convince some that I had advance information of the book. You yourself, Ibrahim, had the same experience with me on this topic in particular. When I sent for you last Monday after the MAY magazine was issued, I asked you: Didn't you read yesterday that I had asked for the formation of a parliamentary factfinding committee? Then how could you in today's MAY edition publish a headline saying: "'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman submits his documents"? You answered by saying: Your Excellency, Mr President, find me only one person who can imagine that Engineer 'Uthman did not acquaint you with his book before publication.

[Ibrahim] In general I wrote my article for the inside pages to place matters in their true perspective. I said that the president's decision to form a parliamentary factfinding committee was aimed at preventing any opportunity for confusion, which papers abroad, hostile to us, could seize in order to defame us.

The president continues his statement by saying: It behooves me now to address the well-intentioned people. As for the others--the bad-intentioned people--I have no business with them nor do I have the desire to convince them of my point of view. What really perplexes me is that some of the good-intentioned people still do not understand me. Have they forgotten that in 1981 before the People's Assembly I said the word "shame" for the first time and to whom I said it? I said it to the centers of power themselves after their moves began--when a matter prompted me to go to the People's Assembly in March or April 1971 to say that I would be tolerant on the condition that we realize that there is a word called shame in our dictionary--that was the first time and after that, when some people persisted in slandering Egypt, I confirmed my words by enacting the ethics law.

In his interview with MAY magazine, President as-Sadat adds: My aim in this country is that the male and female citizens should enjoy peace and security and not only to protect the sovereignty of the law. I mean peace and security in the very broad sense of these words. I want the citizen to be secure in his dignity, home, work health, future and the future of his children after him. In every decision I have taken, my aim has been to confirm and make peace and security available for every citizen. When I was young I lived for a long time without peace or security, and I suffered and went through a great deal. Therefore, I am very anxious that not a single Egyptian citizen should suffer or go through what I have gone through.

President as-Sadat explains that peace and security lie not only in securing work, food, medicine and wages but also in not hurting citizen's feelings or dignity, be this by the ruler, the state or any other citizen.

The president says: We will now go back to your question, and I say that Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman came to me with a copy of the book after publication. He wrote on it that it was a present to me. I thanked him, accepted the booked and put it in its place. I should pause about the place where the books are in my room for there are three places for newspapers and books in my bedroom: The first contains Egyptian and foreign daily newspapers as well as the book I have chosen to read next after I finish the present book which I am reading before going to sleep. The second place is near my bed where I have two books that I read before going to sleep--one is on Arab or English economic, cultural or political topics or issues and the second is a novel I read a few pages from before going to sleep. The third place is for those books that I am not yet ready to read. Regarding 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman's book however, I put it in the first place, namely, with the daily newspapers, preparatory to reading it as soon as I finish reading the book I am reading before going to sleep, and its place is near my bed.

President as-Sadat says: Last Saturday after my day's work, I entered my bedroom and sat reading the daily newspapers. On most days, I cannot read the newspapers in the morning and am therefore forced to read them in the evening. This is what happened last Saturday.

I took the newspaper AKHBAR AL-YAWM and began reading it until I came to Mustafa Amin's column on the last page. I read his comment on 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman's book, and I immediately reached for 'Uthman's book, which I had not read up to that moment, and looked for the passages Mustafa Amin had quoted. After that I immediately and without hesitation made my decision, as is always the case with me--for when a matter requires making speedy decisions I act without hesitation.

In my view there was absolutely no question of any need for hesitation, for we have a state that follows the democratic system. When sectarian sedition took place in our country at around the end of 1972, some people came to me with proposals that I should make visits to Al-Azhar and to the church and consequently sedition would end.

The president adds: I turned the suggestion down and I said no; the People's Assembly must intervene and form a parliamentary committee to examine the causes of that sectarian sedition. My aim was to set a precedent that could be followed in the future. It is not a matter of one individual or the abilities of one individual. It is a question of constitutional institutions. This is why a parliamentary committee including both Muslims and Copts was formed. It carried out its investigation, submitted a report and set a precedent. This is again happening in connection with 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman's book.

Continuing, the president says: After going through the pages of the book, I quickly made my decision. I contacted the vice president and asked: Husni, have you read 'Uthman's book? His answer was that he had not yet read it. The poor man had his leg in a cast and was staying home on doctors' orders. Still, I never let him rest. I referred a million and one matters to him to deal with.

I told Husni: Well, then read Mustafa Amin's column in AKHBAR AL-YAWM and then ask the presidential office to prepare a letter from me addressed to People's Assembly Speaker Sufi Abu Talis to entrust to a parliamentary factfinding committee the task of investigating what has been published of 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman's book.

The president then explains that the factfinding committee is to put the entire issue and all the facts before the public. The committee consists of assembly members. It will conduct its investigations and then prepare its report and submit it for discussion in the assembly by 400 representatives of the people.

He adds: This is why I have always insisted on factfinding committees, as in the case of the sectarian sedition and other issues of interest to the public.

In his interview with MAY,President as-Sadat also says: I believe that the well-meaning people who thought that I had read 'Uthman's book before it was published--and you are one of them, Ibrahim--are now convinced that I had not seen the book before it went to the printers. I did not read one word of it until after it was published and reported in the press.

The strange thing is that the same thing happened when Jalal al-Hamamsi's book was published several years ago. I read that book only after the press reported that it contained slander against 'Abd an-Nasir. Immediately I ordered an investigation under the supervision of the socialist prosecutor general.

The president stops briefly, smiles, then asks: Perhaps some people believe that democracy is giving us a headache, and that had it not been for the democracy, nobody would have written anything and there would have been no need to form parliamentary factfinding committees. I am saying this because when I asked Engineer 'Uthman what prompted him to publish this book, he very simply answered: "We are living in an atmosphere of freedom and there is no censorship of books."

This answer takes me back to the beginning of my interview with you and my emphasis that there is a link between our food security projects, the building of the NDP, the multiparty and opposition system, the housing problem and the rest of our economic and social problems.

All these issues are interrelated and interlinked. Why? Because the freedom of publishing and expression is a part of the democratic system we have built and insist upon in Egypt.

The president adds: I consider this a very opportune moment to address people with good intentions and to tell them that the thing I am most proud of is the fact that I am the head of the Egyptian family, not president of the republic. The head of the family wants love to prevail and doesnot want any compatriot to be harmed; nor does he want anyone's feelings to be hurt.

Continuing, the president says: When Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman's book was published some people's interpretation was that the contents of the book were directed against them and they felt hurt. This is why I hope that the factfinding committee will recommend to the assembly the promulgation of a law that will ensure that the feelings of no one on Egyptian soil will be hurt, not even by insinuation. We do not need that at all. The head of the family is responsible for every member of the family. He is also responsible for the family's life and future.

I really am sad about the ill-intentioned people who claim that I had read 'Uthman's book and approved its contents before it was published. This is not my style. My style is that I openly say what I believe, so long as it is in the interest of my country, Egypt. I did this when I boarded the plane to Jerusalem under the eyes of the whole world. Again, when I saw that it was in Egypt's interest to deport the Soviet experts I ordered the expulsion of 17,000 Russians from Egypt within 1 week.

President as-Sadat adds: There is another story. When the death sentence of two men accused of killing a colleague was brought to me for endorsement, I acquainted myself only with a simple summary of the case and did not read the entire case as had always been my custom, with death sentences in particular. I endorsed the sentence considering that the criminal court's sentence and the mufti's agreement were sufficient. The strange thing was that 2 days after endorsing the sentence I felt that something was wrong with that case. I ordered that the endorsement of the death sentence not be sent to the justice minister, and I demanded that the case be returned to me so that I could acquaint myself with it anew.

I was not convinced by the views of the court and the mufti. I was not absolutely sure that the two had taken part in the killing. At the same time, as the ruler I had to apply God's law: An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. I therefore cancelled my endorsement of the execution sentence and ordered the case to be retried before the criminal court so that my conscience would be at peace. As a ruler, my God will ask me whether I had not made a mistake by endorsing the execution of two men when I was not fully convinced of this in my capacity as a ruler. The case returned to the courts and my conscience was at peace.

The president adds: On another occasion, which I have never liked to mention, there was the case of the spy who enlisted his wife and children for intelligence work against Egypt in Israel's interest, before peace was achieved with it. Naturally, the case was serious, sad and disgusting because we had never before heard of a father who was not content with merely enlisting his wife but enlisted his children with her as well. The court ordered the execution of the spy and his wife and the imprisonment of their son.

The sentence was brought to me for endorsement, and when reading the case I discovered that the spy and his wife had children who would lose their father and mother at once should the executions be carried out. I thought about the fate of those innocent children, and in endorsing the sentence, I decided to pardon the mother for other reason than to look after her children, making it the biggest lesson for her and ensuring that the children would not grow up as vagrants, because I am responsible for them as the head of the Egyptian family and as the ruler.

I reiterate all these attitudes today in order to prove my method, which I get from Egypt's values, which we have learned and which we have grown up with.

The chief editor of MAY magazine asked the president: Do you, Mr President, have any comment regarding the contents of Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman's book, which caused such an uproar, which reached a climax with your decision to form a parliamentary factfinding committee to investigate some of the book's contents?

The president answers: Naturally, I cannot comment now that the entire subject is in the hands of the parliamentary factfinding committee. In other words, the matter is now in the hands of the legislative authority, which is an authority, absolutely similar to the judicial authority. Should the subject be referred to the judiciary, I will still refrain from commenting.

The president adds: But I take this opportunity to place some of the marks I see fit on the path of democratic practice that perhaps will help in this phase and in the coming phases so that we will always choose the sound course. This matter has more than one face: the first is the course followed by democratic practice before the 23 July revolution--the course followed by the centers of power after the revolution up to the 1971 May revolution, which put an end to all of this. This method can be called the method of "tearing up the clothes" because the politicians of the previous regime had no other goal than to harm their rivals. The Wafd party members were interested in tearing up the clothes of those who were not party members, and those who were not Wafd party members were dreaming of annihilating the entire Wafd party.

What was the upshot of that practice--that the politicians in all parties lost the people's respect. The 4 February question finally annihilated those remnants of the ancient heritage that the Wafd still enjoyed.

The president adds: You may recall that I mentioned five Egyptian leaders at the National Democratic Party's general congress. These were 'Urabi, Mustafa Kamil, Muhammad Farid, Sa'd Zaghlul and Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir. I did not mention Mustafa an-Nahhas. Some might believe that I acted unfairly against him, but the truth is that in my view and that of the people An-Nahhas' attitude will remain questionable in two instances: The first was when he went to the criminal court to testify in the case of Amin 'Uthman. He defended Britain, which had humiliated the dignity of Egypt and its people when it sent its famous warning. An-Nahhas stood before the court and justified the fact that he agreed to form the cabinet in response to the British warning. Regarding the nature of the warning, was it a threat or an ultimatum?

An-Nahhas forgot that the warning destroyed the country's dignity, annulled its sovereignty and wounded its feelings, regardless of whether it was a threat or an ultimatum.

The president goes on: The second time was when An-Nuqrashi went to the Security Council to complain about Britain. An-Nuqrashi demanded the independence and unity of the Nile Valley and accused victorious Britain of piracy. He thus sincerely expressed the people's demands and rights. The Wafd party then did not like what An-Nuqrashi accomplished. Its members met and sent a cable saying that An-Nuqrashi did not represent Egypt. It is clear that the reason was envy, selfishness, oppressive and hateful partisanship and an inherent desire to tear up the clothes.

The president further says: The centers of power practiced this hated method after the 23 July revolution. They considered it permissible to harm, to strike and to offend. We have rid ourselves of this method and we have adopted the course of the family. it is easy for the instigatory groups to seize the opportunities so as to arouse and instigate some people and impel them to commit unsound actions.

In his interview with MAY, As-Sadat also says: There is a society in Egypt called the 'Abd an-Nasir Beneficiaries Society.

This society's leaders seized the publication of 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman's book as an opportunity to rush to 'Abd an-Nasir's children and tell them: It is 'Abd an-Nasir who is mentioned in the book. They emphasized to the children that it was As-Sadat who asked 'Uthman to write what he wrote. He adds: The method of the 'Abd an-Nasir Beneficiaries Society is the same old hated method of tearing up the clothes and instigation. The beneficiaries society is not satisfied by only arousing the sons of 'Abd an-Nasir, but it also aims at dealing a fatal blow to 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman. There is another group that will find something in the book to assert that 'Uthman is trying to undermine the 23 July revolution and all its accomplishments and gains.

The president then says: The information I receive affirms that the beneficiaries, instigators and communists are wild with joy. They believe that 'Uthman has fallen and they rushed to pounce on him and slay him. They also covet the slaying of the entire regime. 'Uthman is a deputy prime minister and As-Sadat's relative. They believe that he has undoubtedly received As-Sadat's approval to write what he did. This was a golden opportunity for the bubbles to instigate the sons of 'Abd an-Nasir.

As-Sadat also says: I have often said--the last time was what I said in the first edition of MAY magazine--that I will remain indebted to 'Abd an-Nasir until I die. We in the countryside consider the debt valid and payable to the children of a friend after his death. This is exactly what I am doing regarding the children of 'Abd an-Nasir. I will continue to care for them as my own children until my last day, regardless of what some of them may say or do. I absolutely do not believe that the children of 'Abd an-Nasir have lent an ear to members of the society of beneficiaries regarding their father and believed that I have abandoned my promise or my debt.

The president continues: There are at times some who like to ignore a certain fact: This fact is that I have granted freedoms and that since the lifting of censorship in February 1974 nobody can say that we have imposed censorship on a newspaper or a book. In this, we are doing better than many democratic states: Israel, for example, imposes censorship on the news and foreign correspondents. But we in Egypt have lifted censorship for good. There is full freedom to write and publish books here and the proof is the dozens of books--which fill the libraries--attacking whomever they want. Nobody opposes the libraries or the writers.

The president emphasizes: I weigh all my actions from my position as the head of the Egyptian family first and the president of the republic second. Regarding 'Abd an-Nasir himself, I cannot forget what he did for me. As I said, I again recorded this stand in the first edition of MAY magazine. The man did not have to admit me to the Revolutionary Council, but he decided and insisted on my joining in appreciation of what I did before the revolution. 'Abd an-Nasir's children are my children. If any of them ever feels that somebody is harming their dignity, either directly or indirectly, then I assure him that I will never allow such a thing to happen.

The MAY chief editor then asks President as-Sadat about the how we should write the history of our leaders and how we can deal with the negative aspects of these leaders since history does not distinguish between those who extol the leader and those who put him down.

The president replies: We agreed that Egypt's real leaders in the recent past were 'Urabi, Mustafa Kamil, Muhammad Farid, Sa'd Zaghlul and Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir. These five leaders represent Egypt's recent history. And when we come to consider their behavior we should do so in the family style--without hatred or an intent to settle accounts.

The president adds: I have certain reservations about 'Ali Ahmad 'Urabi. It has been said that he became feeble at a certain stage. But his colleagues betrayed him and opened the way for the British in At-Tall al-Kabir.

It was enough for 'Urabi to go to the khedevi riding his horse, to stand in 'Abidin Square and declare to the khedevi on behalf of all Egypt: "By God, after today, we shall be only free people and we shall not be treated as commodities or real estate." Then take Mustafa Kamil, the battle of (Dinshway) and the dismissal of Cromer--all of which are full of glory and pride. Didn't Mustafa Kamil say that had he not been an Egyptian he would have liked to have been one? The president goes on: Muhammad Farid was one of Egypt's wealthiest men. So the khedevi plotted against him and hounded him until he left for Europe after Mustafa Kamil's death. Farid continued to fight against poverty and disease until the day he died of starvation in Berlin, Germany. Had a certain generous Egyptian from Al-Mansurah not given a donation for the transfer of Muhammad Farid's body to Egypt, it would probably have remained on foreign soil to this very day.

The president then discusses Sa'd Zaghlul, saying: I have certain reservations about Sa'd Zaghlul as well. However, no one denies the zealous nationalism that filled his heart and that prompted him to demand independence. He continued to adhere to the people's goals--at a time when he had reached 60 years of age. As for 'Abd an-Nasir, suffice it to say that he led the July revolution, that he nationalized the Suez Canal and that he confronted and defied imperialism and colonialism everywhere. Suffice it to mention his role in the establishment of the Nonaligned Movement and the Aswan Dam and so forth. The president reiterates that whoever writes the history of these big leaders must not forget their achievements for the sake of their country and their people and should record their struggle and their stands without embellishments or slanders, but with full objectivity so as not to rob them of what they deserve or give them undue credit.

To a question on whether there is a tendency to prevent those who had occupied a leading or responsible position from writing their memoirs, except after having been away from power for a long period, President as-Sadat replies: I will discuss this issue with the vice president so that he, in turn, can study it together with the Cabinet. There are certain laws and constraints that are implemented by all countries in this regard.

Question: Has there been any proposal on the reimposition of certain censorship on book publishing, specifically on political books and memories written by leaders? The president replies: I will ask the Cabinet to discuss this question. All guarantees must be included in the law. Thus, if the proposal gets adopted in order to impose censorship on the political leaders' books alone, then a decision will be taken to the effect that such books cannot be published until after they have been examined. As for ordinary books, they will not be subjected to any censorship by anybody.

The MAY chief editor asks the president: How will we conclude our discussion on this subject?

The president replies: I think I have eased my conscience. I would like my people and my family members to know that every day I have but one prayer to my God: I ask him to help me transcend my personal emotions and to raise myself above hatred, anger, envy and above all of those who have these traits. I go to sleep without any medicine or tranquillizers--perhaps I am the only international leader in the world who does not take sleeping pills. The reason, in my opinion, is that I have ultimately separated myself from hatred. Whenever I become aware that the motive behind an author, or a newspaper or a magazine is hatred, I do not read that book or that newspaper or that magazine.

The president concludes: Some might be surprised when they realize that I have been following this habit since January 1973. On that date, I decided not to read Beirut's newspapers. At the time, these papers were ruling the Arab world, and, despite this, I have not read these papers since that date and I have lost nothing. The same applies to the other papers and authors whose motivations are black hatred. I do not read what they write and I do not care about what they say--and I have lost nothing as I have already told you. On the contrary, perhaps I have benefitted from the aforementioned habit inasmuch as I sleep without taking sleeping pills or tranquillizers.

USSR'S SKACHKOV SEES OFFICIALS, ATTENDS MEETING

Tawfiq Reception

JN191858 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Apr (INA)--Tahir Tawfiq, Revolution Command Council member and minister of industry and minerals, met here this evening with Semen Skachkov, chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and his delegation. Bilateral cooperation and issues of common interest were discussed at the meeting.

The Soviet official arrived here yesterday on a visit of several days.

Committee Meeting

JN192044 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1950 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Apr (INA)--Meetings of the 11th session of the joint Iraqi-Soviet permanent committee for technical and economic cooperation began here tonight. The Iraqi side is headed by Tahir Tawfiq, Revolution Command Council member and minister of industry and minerals, and the Soviet side by Semen Skachkov, chairman of the State Soviet Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

In a speech Tahir Tawfiq said that the meetings of the current session are being held in abnormal circumstances, through which Iraq is passing. Abetted by world imperialism, the Iranian regime is attempting to implement imperialist plots aimed at stopping the march of progress in Iraq and interfering in Iraq's internal affairs to hinder its growth and development. The Iraqi minister reiterated that the Iraqi people are carefully working for the continuation of the process of construction and development in order to realize their aims and those of the Arab nation.

In a speech in reply Skachkov stressed the need to expand the scope of the technical and economic cooperation between Iraq and the Soviet Union and said that the joint Iraqi-Soviet committee is holding its meetings at a time when world imperialism is endeavoring to increase tension in the region. He pointed out that the treaty of friendship between the two countries serves the joint struggle of the Iraqi and Soviet peoples against imperialism and in favor of just peace and world security.

Last Wednesday the committee held a preliminary technical meeting which resulted in the formation of six subcommittees in the fields of industry, irrigation, agriculture, energy, oil and gas, and technical cooperation. The subcommittee will discuss the means of strengthening mutual cooperation in these fields.

Ramadan Meeting

JN201341 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Apr (INA)--Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, met here today with Semen Skachkov, chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations. Relations between the two friendly countries and their development in various fields, particularly the field of economic and technical cooperation, were discussed at the meeting.

The first deputy prime minister affirmed to the Soviet official Iraq's wish to expand economic and technical cooperation with the Soviet Union, referring to the role of the permanent committee for economic and technical cooperation between the two countries in this domain.

The meeting was attended by the deputy chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations and the Soviet ambassador in Baghdad.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 312

JN201647 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Apr (INA)--In the past 24 hours the Iraqi Armed Forces inflicted losses on the Iranian enemy totaling 182 dead. Communique No 312 issued by the Armed Forces General Command this evening said that other known enemy losses were four infantry positions, three tanks, three field guns, eight vehicles, four stockpiles of hardware, one missile launcher, one armored personnel carrier, one cylindrical launcher and one armored vehicle. The text of Communique No 312 issued by the Armed Forces General Command is as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our capable armed forces continued to hit the forces of the ignorant racist Persians in the operational sectors last night and today, with the following results:

A. Known enemy losses:

A. Our forward units hit an enemy personnel concentration with various weapons in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region and forced it to flee, leaving behind 21 killed. One observation post and one stockpile of hardware were destroyed in the same region.
B. A force from our units raided enemy positions in the Gilan-e Gharb region and hit it with various weapons, killing 53 and destroying 2 vehicles loaded with charlatan Khomeyni guards. Our units also hit with various weapons enemy personnel in the same region and forced them to flee, leaving behind six dead.
C. One of our patrols attacked enemy positions in the Mimak region in front of our units' positions in Sayf Sa'd, killing 14 and destroying 1 vehicle.
D. One of our forward units clashed with an enemy force in the Mehran region and hit it with various weapons, forcing it to flee after killing 76 and wounding a large number of soldiers and destroying 2 vehicles and 1 stockpile of hardware.
E. Six were killed and one armored personnel carrier, one vehicle and one stockpile of hardware were destroyed in the Dezful region.
F. Three tanks, two field guns, two vehicles, one missile launcher, one armored vehicle, one cylindrical launcher and one stockpile of hardware were destroyed in the Shush region.
G. Six were killed and four infantry positions and one field gun were destroyed in the Abadan region.

Thus, total known enemy losses are 182 dead, 4 infantry positions, 3 tanks, 1 armored personnel carrier, 3 field guns, 8 vehicles, 1 missile launcher, 1 observation post, 4 stockpiles of hardware, 1 armored vehicle and 1 cylindrical launcher.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 22 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: Three vehicles and one mortar damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 20 Apr 1981

SYRIAN REVOLUTIONARIES CLAIM DESTRUCTION OF PLANE

JN182131 Baghdad Voice of Arab Syria in Arabic 1930 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Text] The Syrian revolutionaries' organization has claimed responsibility for destroying one of two Syrian planes which transported ammunition and provisions for the Persian regime. The Al-Mu'tasim group attacked the plane marked 46 with RPG's and completely destroyed it. The group withdrew safely to base. The Syrian revolutionaries' organization pledged that it will destroy anything connected with the cooperation of the Al-Asad regime with the racist Persians, whether ammuntion, planes or persons.

PIERRE AL-JUMAYYIL MEETS WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR

NC171341 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Apr 81

[Excerpt] This morning Phalangist leader Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil received in his home U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon John Gunther Dean. During the 2-hour meeting they discussed the situation in Lebanon and the latest developments in the light of recent political and security events in Lebanon.

The U.S. ambassador refused to make any statement after the meeting. He was content to say that he wished Shaykh al-Jumayyil happy Easter.

In a statement to journalists Shaykh al-Jumayyil said: You know that the United States and the Soviet Union are at present the greatest powers in the world. Thus it was natural that I should meet with Ambassador Dean at his request. This is not the first time we have met; the U.S. ambassador is my friend. We took the opportunity to discuss issues that we are trying to tackle at all levels.

Al-Jumayyil said: The United States, which is seeking to lead the Free World and to be the pioneer of democracy, cannot help sympathizing with Lebanon--the small country and homeland of democracy and freedom in this part of the world. Thus we are confident that all friends of Lebanon and those who feel the need for human freedom and civilization cannot ignore helping this small country and its people who have suffered more disasters and pains than any other people in the past 6 years.

AL-WAZZAN QUESTIONED ON SITUATION IN SOUTH

NC201601 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] In the political domain, President of the Republic Ilyas Sarkis today followed developments affecting the security and political situations. Within this context President Sarkis today at noon met with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Defense Minister Joseph Skaf and Army Commander Gen Victor Khuri. The conferees discussed affairs of the military institution. President Sarkis and Prime Minister al-Wazzan also conferred about the results of the contacts that are being held to tackle the security and political situations. Minister Skaf and General Khuri left the meeting at 1330 without making any statements, while President Sarkis and Prime Minister al-Wazzan continued their meeting.

At the conclusion of the meeting between the president and the prime minister, the following dialogue took place between Prime Minister al-Wazzan and newsmen:

Question: Can you brief us on the meetings that were held today under the chairmanship of President Sarkis?

Answer: You know that we are following security and political issues because these issues have become the order of the day for us and they preoccupy us, exactly as they preoccupy all Lebanese. We held our initial working session on the army institution. We resumed our discussion at the point where we had left it some 3 weeks ago. We studied the steps needed to implement the army law decree and we have made a significant advance in this respect. We hope to see the results of this advance soon.

In addition we reviewed the security situation prevailing in the various Lebanese areas--from Zahlah to Sidon. I have felt strong pain because of what befell Sidon yesterday as a result of the ferocious Israeli shelling.

We have also specified some steps which should be taken concerning political affairs regarding the committee on national reconciliation. This committee will meet tomorrow and we are interested in participating in the work of this committee because we want to contribute to placing its work on the path of useful action.

Question: Is there a scheduled program for this committee?

Answer: We have asked this committee to specify a program for its work. We are waiting for the topics that the committee will submit to us for discussion at tomorrow's session.

Question: Do you believe that the Committee on National Reconciliation can submit a scheduled program under circumstances such as the ones under which the country is now living?

Answer: Importance does not lie in what I believe. However, it is important that we all work because we all want to make headway, each one of us in his field. It is imperative for us to advance as long as we are working for this homeland, which requires all the efforts that we can all exert, regardless of our position.

Question: Your Excellency, you have been criticized to the effect that you denounced the incidents in Zahlah.

Answer: Who has criticized me for taking interest in Sidon without taking interest in Zahlah? Who has said that I have not been interested in Zahlah? Who has failed to say that only a day ago we were ardently seeking to send food to Zahlah? Who has said that we have not denounced this situation prevailing in all our areas?

I reject such talk. I wish these critics would not have stooped in this way. We are weary of distinguishing one area from another. We are here to serve all of Lebanon. We have proved by our actions that we are working for all of Lebanon. We do not distinguish between one area and another. However, we indeed distinguish between those who work for Lebanon and those who work against Lebanon.

SPEAKER AL-AS'AD VIEWS ATTACKS ON LEBANESE UNITY

NC201802 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] His Excellency [Chamber of Deputies] Speaker Kamil al-As'ad today held a press conference in his office. He spoke about making the building housing of the Chamber of Deputies secure, about national reconciliation and about an overall solution for the crisis prevailing in the country.

At the outset of the conference Speaker al-As'ad read a statement in which he said: Insistence on hindering the work of the chamber by any group belonging to the forces dominating the people's security and destiny constitutes the mere declaration of a frank stand of disavowal of a unified Lebanon. The reason is that the Chamber of Deputies is now the sole institution which epitomizes Lebanese unity.

Speaker al-As'ad added: Our responsibility and duty make it impermissible for us to accept the fait accompli, even if efforts are exerted to ensure the reopening of Museum Road. The sole solution resides in ensuring a real, continuing protection of the chamber building. Such protection can be secured only within the framework of a unified military command and unified responsibility for security.

He called for establishment of a new sector encompassing the building of the Chamber of Deputies and the buildings surrounding and overlooking it to ensure that the chamber building is secure.

SKAF HOLDS ARABS, WORLD RESPONSIBLE FOR CRISIS

NC171939 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Apr 81

[TExt] Defense Minister Joseph Skaf today followed the security situation in Beirut, Zahlah and the south and held contacts pertinent to ensuring the arrival of foodstuffs in Zahlah. He also studied information available on the latest Israeli attacks against southern Lebanon. He said that the situation in southern Lebanon reflects the entire country.

Skaf said: We have repeatedly said that what is happening in southern Lebanon is an Arab and international responsibility, because the south is paying the toll in blood for all the Arabs. Southern Lebanon is suffering from a war of contradictions on its soil. Thus, it is the duty of the Arabs and the countries of the world to realize and face up to their responsibilities and to keep their controversies away from our land, because we are paying a heavy price in lives and property. Skaf added that at a time when Lebanon is being subjected to a plot aimed against its security, stability and entity, the Israeli aggressors strike at any attempt to stabilize the situation.

Minister Skaf today met with former President Camille Sham'un and reviewed with him the situation in general and in Zahlah in particular.

BISHOPRIC IN SIDON REPORTED ATTACKED, BURNED

NC191750 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Text] Our correspondent has just reported from Sidon that, in the wake of today's shelling of Sidon, armed gunmen attacked the Maronite bishopric in the town and burned it down. The gunmen also burned the Maronite church. Bishop (Ibrahim al-Hilu) succeeded in escaping the attack. Sidon political circles have denounced the incident and visited the bishopric while the bishop was being moved to another house under armed guard. The visitors included Minister al-Bizri and the shari'iyah judge in Sidon. Armed gunmen also burned down the Roman Catholic church in the town.

MINISTER IDDIH DECRIES SIDON SHELLING, BURNING

NC202159 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] Commenting on the incidents in Sidon yesterday, Information Minister Michel Iddih tonight said: The serious incidents which took place in Sidon yesterday, Easter Sunday, must make every Lebanese ponder this very delicate fateful stage. Israel indiscriminately shelled the city of Sidon across the southern border with heavy artillery, hitting quarters and streets, claiming many victims from among the various communities and causing material damage.

The minister added: Regardless of the reason Israel gives to justify this barbaric action, it is part of the known Israeli practices against the south and the southerners in particular and against the Lebanese in general. This prompts us to ponder some facts:

1. Israel has resorted in the past and is resorting at present to violence and terrorism as a modus operandi. This is proved by the history of its establishment as an entity and by the past state of affairs of its various terroristic organizations, which practiced before and during the first Arab-Israeli war all methods of terrorism and mass killing against the Palestinians forcing their evacuation and displacement. Israel is trying through the same method to finally evict the southerners, both Muslims and Christians, from their land preparatory to settling the Palestinians in their place. This is the plan which Israel is still seeking to implement despite signs to the contrary.

2. By striking Sidon itself Israel is trying to strike a living and vital model of coexistence between Muslims and Christians and a creative humanitarian, social and economic interaction, which the capital of the south represents and which placed this capital in the forefront of the prosperous Lebanese areas. Thanks to this coexistence and interaction, Sidon and its suburbs were able, through the various stages of the Lebanese war, to avoid being carried away by the sectarian plans. They remained a cohesive unit by the ability of their sons on one side and by the vigilant and controlling care of their spiritual leaders, who, since the beginning, were alert to the various kinds of dangers and avoided them until now.

3. Striking Sidon at this particular time is a strike at the signs of internal accord and at the attempts underway to clear the relations of some Lebanese factions with sister Syria. It has been Israel's habit in the past to preclude such a rapprochement by various means. This is Israel's permanent policy on Lebanon and on all Arab countries, which it adopted to try to strike all tendencies of rapprochement internally and on the Arab arena. What Sidon was subjected to yesterday did not stop at this, and the results Israel achieved from the shelling have perhaps gone beyond its own expectations because of the barbaric action by some armed groups which burned the Maronite bishopric, the Maronite Mar Ilyas Church and the Greek Catholic Mar Niqula Church. This primitive barbaric action appeared as though it was an answer to the Israeli attack on Sidon. This is something which all the Lebanese reject. They reject the Christians as being the target of certain actions which are the result of suspicious plans and secret machinations, when the Christians themselves are among the main targets of the Israeli plot against Lebanon. The Israeli shelling of the south has not spared the Christians, the Christian places of worship nor the christian quarters in Tyre, Sidon or elsewhere. This barbaric action has come as a service to Israel. Its perpetrators are actually Israeli agents because the instigators of sectarian seditions cannot but serve the Zionist enemy and its racist entity, which has been and still is the only beneficiary from the hated sectarian actions, which regrettably took place in Lebanon and which all Lebanese repudiate with all disdain and distaste.

In conclusion, Minister Iddih said: The crime of the deliberate burning of the churches in such a collective manner is a serious precedent in the Lebanese war. It is an action which must preoccupy us all because of what it implies and of its possible consequences. It could be a pointer to plans aimed at causing sectarian division in areas which have stayed away from such division until now, and at emptying these areas of their population, including the Christians, in a manner that would serve the Israeli plan of preparing for the settlement of the Palestinians and the liquidation of the Palestinian question on the land of Lebanon and at its expense. This is a very dangerous matter which all must understand now more than at any time in the past.

DEFENSE MINISTER CONDEMNS ISRAELI SIDON ATTACK

NC191956 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Text] Commenting on today's aggression, Defense Minister Joseph Skaf said: The bestial attack against Sidon this evening in which a number of innocent civilians were killed proves again the extent of Israeli's bestiality and the criminality of its agents in the border villages who perpetrate some of these attacks.

Skaf said: By this ferocious shelling Israel once again discloses its intention toward Lebanon by striking at the Lebanese people, both Christians and Muslims. One time it strikes under the cover of preventive operations and at another under the pretext of safeguarding a Lebanese faction. Today's oppressive aggression against Sidon prompts us to appeal to the Arab countries which say that they are zealous about Lebanon's interests to do their duty toward us, at least by unifying the Arab stand into a force that the world cannot ignore.

Skaf continued: This aggression prompts us to appeal to the world, which claims to be concerned about Lebanon's sovereignty, to put an end to the Israeli attacks. This aggression prompts us to appeal to the big powers, in particular, because if they want, they can put an end to the aggression.

Skaf further said: The Israeli aggression against Sidon, whether direct or by Israeli tools, and which coincides with the events in Zahlah and Beirut proves that Israel is not far from what is happening in Lebanon. Israel is one of the parties acting to keep the situation deteriorating throughout Lebanon.

Skaf continued: We condemn these aggressions and greet the steadfastness of the people in Sidon and in southern Lebanon.

Skaf said that the Israeli aggression on Sidon does not justify aggression by certain groups on churches and places of worship. The source of aggression is Israel and it is directed against Christians and Muslims alike. The attack on the Sidon bishopric and the Greek Catholic church is rejected whatever the party and no uproar justifies it. Thus, we condemn and reject attacks on places of worship, be it a church or a mosque.

MUFTI KHALID DEPARTS FOR ALGIERS VISIT 20 APR

NC201344 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Excerpts] At 1315 today his eminence the mufti of the republic, Shaykh Hasan Khalid, left Beirut for Algiers. His eminence made a departure statement in which he said: This visit to Algiers comes within the context of the Arab-Islamic tour which was deemed necessary under the present difficult circumstances. The purpose of this tour is to hold consultations on how to ensure justice, calm and peace for the peoples of the area in general, and for the Lebanese people in particular.

Mufti Khalid denounced the Israeli act of aggression against the city of Sidon describing it as a savage act. He offered expressions of condolences to the relatives of the victims saying: I can only emphasize that the steadfastness of the Lebanese, their patience in facing this crisis, no matter how long, and their adherence to their unity--no matter to how many acts of aggression they are exposed--are what is needed to achieve the national and pan-Arab objectives which we all seek to attain.

ALGERIA BEGINS EFFORTS ON SECURITY SITUATION

NC171928 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Apr 81

[Text] At the Arab level Algerian efforts are expected to start early next week to help Lebanon find solutions to its problems. Within this context the Algerian ambassador is continuing his contacts in Beirut prior to his return to Algeria at the request of his government. Algerian Ambassador Mustafa Hashmawi yesterday met with President Ilyas Sarkis. He will meet with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan tomorrow.

Ambassador Meets Al-Wazzan

NC181826 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Text] At 1100 Prime Minister Al-Wazzan met in his office with the Algerian ambassador in Beirut, Mustafa al-Hishmawi. They discussed the political situation and Arab and international activities.

Following the meeting, the Algerian ambassador made a statement in which he said: The meeting was held within the framework of meetings that are being held with the Lebanese officials. We want to find a way out of the Lebanese crisis. He added: I will convey the concepts of the Lebanese officials to their brethern in Algeria so that they can use them as guidelines to draw up the extent of their aid.

Asked if Algeria has made any specific initiative in this regard, he replied: To date, there is nothing of the sort. He added: My brothers in Algeria were the ones who asked me to brief them on the situation in Lebanon as well as on Lebanese needs. We do not want to interfere in Lebanon's internal affairs. We want to help Lebanon. If the Lebanese accept our help, we are prepared to give it.

The Algerian ambassador, asked his opinion about the European initiative--specifically the French initiative--replied: The Lebanese Government has already expressed its opinion about this. Prime Minister al-Wazzan was very clear in his statement on this when he said that the Lebanese issue is an Arab, not an international, issue.

When asked if is there an Algerian initiative being made within the Arab arena, Al-Hishmawi answered: We do not work against the Arab consensus. Asked if the Algerian moves will be carried out in coordinatin with the Kuwaiti and Saudi moves, he replied: We hope there will be coordination.

Asked whether he could draw the conclusion that the European initiative will have an Arab aspect--including Algeria's current efforts--he said: We wish the intiative would be taken by the Arabs first--particularly by Lebanon--because I believe the solution of the Lebanese problem can be carried out only through Lebanese efforts.

He was then asked if Algeria has adopted the European intiative, to which he responded: Algeria will adopt Lebanon's concepts. We are neither a satellite of the East nor of the West.

Asked whether the French moves toward Lebanon will meet any response in Algeria. the ambassador said no.

Asked whether Algeria will have a specific role in formulating the domestic contacts within Lebanon or the dialogue within Lebanon, the ambassador replied: If the Lebanese want anything, we are at their disposal. If they think it is in their interest that we should intervene, we will intervene. However, we will only intervene if they ask us to do so.

ADF 'SOURCES' MAKE STATEMENTS ON BEIRUT, ZAHLAH

Beirut Incidents

NC201927 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Apr 81

[20 April statement by "responsible source" of the ADF--read by announcer]

[Text] This afternoon the positions of the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] in Bishara al-Khuri quarter were subjected to sniping by armed gunmen who infiltrated into the vicinity of the Al-Kildan church in the same quarter. This led to the killing of one soldier and the wounding of four others, forcing the ADF to reply to the sources of fire with the appropriate weapons. The situation was dealt with by the ADF command and the clashes stopped this evening at 1900.

Zahlah Siege Denial

NC172201 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Apr 81

[Text] A responsible source of the Arab Deterrent Forces command today denied reports about a security and supply seige of Zahlah. In an interview with the PRESS NEWS AGENCY [WIKALAT AL-ANBA' AS-SUHUFIYAH] the source affirmed that some people wishing to enter the city have been prevented from doing so in order to protect them against sniper fire. However, no one wishing to leave the city has been prevented from doing so. Regarding the supply situation, the source said that the responsible officials are providing the essential commodities to the citizens in Zahlah as agreed upon by the security and political leaders.

GDR, USSR ADVISERS SAID INVOLVED IN FIGHTING

NC171718 Paris AFP in English 1702 GMT 17 Apr 81

[Text] Paris, 17 Apr (AFP)--Eastern-bloc military advisors are involved in the Syrian offensive against the Lebanese Christian enclave of Zahlah, the French language publication LA LETTRE DU LIBAN (LETTER FROM LEBANON), reported today. An East German officer, Gerhardt Dietrich Boehm, has supervised artillery operations, the pro-Phalangist publication said. Similarly four Soviet citizens, including Dimitri Nivochenko, Nikolai Vlassov and Gregory Ushenko, were in charge of helicopter the journal said.

JERUSALEM BELIEVES U.S. MAY SHELVE AWACS DEAL

TA191944 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1830 GMT 19 Ap 81

[Text] The United States apparently may shelve the AWACS surveillance aircraft deal with Saudi Arabia. This evaluation is reported by our political correspondent, Elimelekh Ram, quoting political circles in Jerusalem. Our correspondent adds that, according to this evaluation, the Reagan administration had not foreseen the strong objection the deal is expected to encounter in both houses of Congress. Therefore, the administration may at this stage only supply improved equipment for the F-15's owned by Saudi Arabia.

Our correspondent points out that the controversy between Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger--who favors the AWACS deal--and Secretary of State Alexander Haig--who is opposed to the deal--has not yet been settled. The hesitant position of Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker, who recently toured the Middle East, has apparently contributed to a large extent to the current withdrawal in the administration's position. It is believed that in addition to the improved equipment for the F-15's, the United States may offer additional equipment to Saudi Arabia as compensation. Israel also objects to the latter deal.

Reaction 'Restrained'

TA201658 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 20 Apr 81

[By political correspondent Gad Becker--recorded]

[Text] The U.S. administration is currently probing various serious tactical problems, among them when to submit the proposals for the deals with Saudi Arabia for debate and approval by Congress and whether to link the deal involving the sale of accessories for the F-15's to the AWACS sale. Yet to the best of Jerusalem's knowledge, the administration has not, in principle, retracted its intention to sell the Saudis the AWACS aircraft as well. That is why political circles say that at present it is necessary to avoid issuing victory calls, especially in view of the fact that the final decision has not yet been made by the administration and, practically speaking, the votes in Congress and Senate have not been counted.

In general, those circles have said that one should not overestimate the practical impact of the Israeli objection. Even though the Israeli Embassy in Washington provides extensive answers to those approaching it with questions on the danger from the sale of the early-warning aircraft, nevertheless, those Jerusalem circles have said, the crucial factor that will determine congressional considerations will be the national U.S. defense aspect. Lending too high a profile to the activity and reaction of Israel today, when it looks like the deal has been postponed, would make the administration's contacts with Saudi Arabia more difficult. Jerusalem wants to avoid such friction with the new administration. Thus, the reaction is restrained.

AIR FORCE ATTACKS 'TERRORIST CONCENTRATIONS'

TA201705 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1703 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] Today at around 1730 air force planes attacked terrorist concentrations near the Beaufort fortress and the An-Nabatiyah plateau. All our planes returned safety to their bases. The pilots reported direct hits on the targets. The IDF spokesman noted that the purpose of today's raid was to foil the terrorists' attempts to organize and to prevent their going on terrorist missions in Israel.

FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN SINAI FORCE OPPOSED

TA201207 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Apr 81 p 1

[By military correspondent]

[Text] Israel is opposed to asking France to send soldiers to the multinational force in the Sinai that will supervise the military agreement between Israel and Egypt within the framework of the Camp David accords. Among all the countries with which Israel has diplomatic relations, France is the only country Jerusalem has not approached on this issue.

Israel has submitted a list of countries whose soldiers it is ready to accept in the multinational force in the Sinai. In negotiations on the establishment of the force with U.S. and Egyptian officials, the Israeli representatives insisted that any country participating in the multinational force should have diplomatic relations with Israel. Nevertheless, Israel will agree to the participation in the multinational force of several African countries that do not maintain diplomatic relations with Israel, such as Kenya and the Ivory Coast. On the other hand, Israel deleted France from the list of countries it is ready to accept in the multinational force even though Israel and France have diplomatic relations. France's omission has no practical significance since it is doubtful whether Paris would have acceded to the proposal to participate in the force.

Reliable sources have said that France's deletion from the list stems from the feeling that Paris has been playing an irresponsible role in the region and its policy has exacerbated instability. France has been acting against the Camp David accords. has been encouraging extremist elements and has also extended aid to Iraq to construct nuclear reactors. This latter element might exacerbate instability in the region and provoke a serious flare-up.

BEGIN VIEWS LEBANON SITUATION, OTHER ISSUES

TA171045 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Apr 81 pp 1, 2

[Interview of Menahem Begin by Yesha'yahu Ben-Porat and Arye Tzimuqi--date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Mr Prime Minister, at a distance of a few dozen kilometers from our northern border, Christian civilians are being slaughtered and the world is silent. How does the State of Israel react to this?

[Answer] Indifference is the greatest enemy of humanity and we, the Jews, are experienced in the results of indifference. An army equipped with heavy cannons, tanks, even missiles, is fighting a civilian population, killing hundreds of people, wounding an enormous number of men, women and children--and the world keeps silent. We are the only ones who are helping them, directly or indirectly, and were it not for us the Christians would already have ceased to exist in Lebanon. We are not standing aside and our operations have results. We have also demanded that great efforts be made to achieve a cease-fire and the cease-fire has indeed been achieved, although shooting is renewed from time to time, but there are no more heavy shellings.

[Question] How have we helped the Christians in the north, as opposed to the enclaves along our border?

[Answer] We are helping the Christian minority to exist. That is my reply. I am convinced that, for the human aspect and from that of the tragedy that must be prevented, we are not only doing our duty but more than that. During a certain period of time we were the only ones who were aware of this problem. [paragraph continues]

Now, and I am happy to emphasize this, there is first of all a change in the United States. They no longer regard the Syrian Army of conquest in Lebanon as a peacekeeping force. Secretary of State Alexander Haig spoke to the entire public, not only here but also in the United States, about the Syrian brutality and behavior, which contradict all the rules of honest international behavior. Public opinion in France has also woken up. None of this happened in the past. The world was silent and apart from us nobody helped the Christians. The Christians know this very well.

[Question] But have the Syrians in the menatime achieved their objective--the encirclement of Zahlah?

[Answer] I am not sure that this was their goal. They wanted to conquer Zhalah and they did not succeed in this because there was very serious resistance by the Christians, because they had the means with which to fight. Now Zahlah is no longer an unknown hamlet. It is now known throughout the world.

[Question] At one time you corresponded with President Carter. Are you already corresponding with President Reagan?

[Answer] Yes, there is a correspondence. I received a message from President Reagan before Secretary of State Haig's visit. A very warm message. He signed it in the hospital and the concluding sentence has genuine political content: "I hope that relations between the United States and the State of Israel will be much closer." That is what President Reagan wrote to me. Obviously I have already replied to that letter from President Reagan and of course I sent him my best wishes for a speedy recovery after the attempt to assassinate him. I wrote that we were all praying for a complete recovery. I received a reply to this; it is true that I have not yet had one from him, because it was 24 or 48 hours after he was wounded, but from Mr Allen, who brought the content of my message to the president's attention. The president specially asked to thank me. So there is a link between us and the secretary of state also gave me regards from the President. Howard Baker, who is today the leader of the majority in the Senate, also brought me greetings from President Reagan, with whom he met before the senatorial delegation left for the Middle East.

[Question] Are you also continuing to correspond with other leaders, President Ceausescu, for example?

[Answer] From time to time the Romanian ambassador has visited me and there have been exchanges of letters, but over the last few months we have not exchanged letters. But I do not think that one can say that the link between us has stopped because of that. I also think that the memory of the meeting between us is engraved on him and on me.

[Question] Does the prime minister think that we are witnessing a new U.S. strategy in the Middle East?

[Answer] I do not know if it is possible to use the term new strategy. There are changes in U.S. strategy. The emphases are new. I will give the most important example. The new administration is putting the emphasis on the danger of Soviet expansionism. Not that the previous administration was unaware of this danger. After the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, President Carter said that the greatest danger since the end of World War II had been created, but the new administration is stressing the danger of Soviet expansion throughout the world, in all regions, and especially in our area. One of the reasons for the change in attitude toward Syria is that it is clear today to the administration that Syria is in fact a Soviet base just as, for example, there are 2,000 tanks in Soviet stockpiles in Libya, which the Libyans cannot even use on their own. In other words, the Soviets are establishing their arsenals in our area and the United States is very much aware of this. [paragraph continues]

I am happy to point out that the unceasing interest in Poland's situation is also a new emphasis in U.S. policy. Poland is going through a deep crisis. The danger has not passed, although there is no doubt that the Russians are behaving cautiously, for various reasons. I would also like to point out that there is also a change regarding the murderers' organization which calls itself the PLO. I prefer to call it the "'Arafat organization." After all, it is absolutely terrible for Jews to call a murderers' organization, an organization of oppression, one the like of which we have not seen since the time of the Nazis, a liberation organization. It plans the murder of men, women and children and afterward boasts of this murder and promises to repeat it. I heard what one of the prisoners here from the 'Arafat organization said on the U.S. ABC network that he was proud of having thrown a bomb and killed dozens and wounded even more. They asked him: Do you regret having hit men, women and children? And he replied absolutely in the negative: Why should I regret it? And so, there is a change in the United States regarding that organization, particularly from the aspect of awareness. We have never stopped encouraging this awareness over all the years, saying that the Soviet Union stands behind this organization. I also told guests from the United States who visited us over the last few weeks that at the PLO congress in Damascus, a short time before the Venice conference of EC countries, a clause was approved that speaks about the "elimination of the Zionist entity," that is, the elimination of Israel, because they cannot say the word Israel.

In this context, I gave Secretary of State Haig a document proving that the organization's envoys are receiving training, not only heavy arms, from the Soviet Union and Mr Haig commented: This is a very important document; I must show it to some of my friends because it proves our claim that the Soviet Union is backing terror. And so, from this aspect, there is undoubtedly a new emphasis. Not that the previous administration owed its existence to the organization, but there were different voices then.

[Question] However, there is a U.S. courtship of Saudi Arabia, and even signs they are showing interest in Iraq.

[Answer] We have no evaluations that there is a U.S. courtship of Iraq. Perhaps there is such a thing but I must admit that I have not heard about it. As opposed to this it is true that, as concerns Saudi Arabia, we have a very serious problem. Look, the secretary of state's visit to us was basically very good and we found a common language on all the international and bilateral matters. And, by the way, at the dinner he no longer used the words "strategic asset." We really commented to him that we do not like this term. What is an asset? After all, we are friends, we all allies, and we really felt satisfaction that, in the public speech, the secretary of state used the phrase that there is a permanent alliance between the United States and Israel. But it is true that the problem of the supply of assault weapons of the AWACS type to Saudi Arabia is sticking in our throat like a bone. We expressed our basic opposition unreservedly to the secretary of state and also to the senators and we explained the danger to Israel. I said: "We would be exposed if the Saudis were to receive these modern, sophisticated planes." They listened to us, of course. It is not for me to say what will happen in Congress. The congressmen have to decide.

[Question] Have we done enough to arouse U.S. public opinion?

[Answer] We have done everything we could. On his mission, the foreign minister worked endlessly on this matter. The citizens of the United States have the full right, but they must do this on their own initiative, to appeal to their representatives, just as every citizen of Israel has the right to appeal to a member of the Knesset or a Cabinet minister. [paragraph continues]

Activity has now increased because of the additional AWACS planes. I asked the secretary of state to be good enough to tell the U.S. President to reconsider that entire deal. I do not know what the results will be. Mr Baker, the majority leader, assumes that, on this matter, there are equal votes in the Senate. We explained to them very well what the dangers to Israel were.

[Question] What is our attitude on the one hand toward Major Haddad and, on the other, toward UNIFIL?

[Answer] We are helping Haddad and his soldiers. Without our help they would have been liquidated long ago. We have never denied and we will not deny that we have a certain amount of influence over Haddad. However, we emphasize that we cannot give him orders. Concerning UNIFIL, we certainly do not want any dispute with them. I have not yet met the new commander, Callaghan, but I will certainly meet him shortly. Our attitude toward UNIFIL is one of respect for an international force and we must not clash with those forces. Orders to this effect have been given to all our military personnel. But sometimes things happen that nobody can anticipate in advance. Could we have expected what happened in Kafr Yasif [rioting at sports event] this week?

[Question] It has already been more than a year since you met with President as-Sadat. Is there no point in you initiating a meeting with him?

[Answer] How can I? My last visit to Egypt was in Aswan. I invited President as-Sadat to visit us again and he agreed and announced in public that he had accepted my invitation. So he has to come to us. We exchanged cables to mark the second anniversary of the signing of the peace treaty. Very friendly cables. As for a meeting, he has to come to us. I do not deny that we have problems over the continuation of the negotiations, but we must also remember that we have signed 11 more agreements since the peace treaty. Some of them have already been ratified by the Egyptian Parliament. Some of them do not require ratification and some are still awaiting ratification. But I cannot take the initiative on the matter of a meeting. If President as-Sadat wants to visit even this month in Israel. [sentence as published]

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, why should you not adopt Mr Dayan's idea about a unilateral implementation of autonomy? After all, it is your idea and you are interested in it being implemented.

[Answer] First of all, it is a good thing that you say that the autonomy idea is ours, because lately I have been liable to get the impression that someone else has the author's rights.

[Question] In view of a certain book?

[Answer] I can certainly confirm that it was my idea. I also wrote the first clauses. Afterward, of course, there was a discussion and there were various changes, in my view very desirable ones. Now, look: at Camp David the Egyptians' first demand was a Palestinian state and we totally rejected that idea, and we said, as simply as this: "Out of the question." Afterward there was a change and autonomy was agreed upon and, as Secretary of State Haig rightly said: Autonomy is not sovereignty. Autonomy is a completely different idea. For example, according to the rules of the autonomy laid down in the Camp David agreement, our army remains in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, although there is a withdrawal of forces, but the army remains and must be operated inside special security zones and we prepared a map on this matter. Neither did we agree to any synonyms or alternative wording for the idea of a state. [paragraph continues]

But what is written in the Camp David agreement about autonomy? That it must be established as a result of an agreement, that is, the administrative council that has to direct the affairs of the Arabs, the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip is an administrative council, that is what is written specifically--it is nothing else--not legislative--and it must first be elected and afterward be run and only then will we remove the military government. And what is Mr Dayan proposing? To implement autonomy unilaterally. I replied to him in the Knesset about this: We should, on our own initiative, provide an example of a deviation from the Camp David agreements? If this is so, why will they not demand other deviations? We must first of all keep what was achieved in Camp David. And a great deal was achieved. I think that we must not do what Dayan is proposing. It would be an opening for further demands. What will we get out of removing the military government without any agreement?

[Question] We would at least win sympathetic world public opinion and advance the matter of peace?

[Answer] I can tell you that within 24 hours a Palestinian flag would appear there on every house (because of the fear of the 'Arafat peoples' murderers' organization). What would we do? Bring the army in to remove them? It would not be a pleasure trip. When there is a military government, then it sometimes happens that a flag appears on some house. Then it is taken down, without any noise. Mr Dayan's idea is not a good one. It is first of all a deviation from the Camp David agreement and, in my view, it has nothing practical in it. It appears to be pragmatic: Since there is no agreement, let us do this unilaterally. It would not last.

[Question] Mr Begin, over the last 4 years, what has been the most difficult thing about your post?

[Answer] Everything was difficult. It is a very difficult post. But the most difficult, painful thing is connected with the Rafah approaches settlements. At Camp David I did not agree to the transfer of the settlers to another place. I spoke with President Carter and I assume that he was influenced by my reasoning, but he did not receive President as-Sadat's agreement and then, as I told the settlers frankly when I met with them, the matter hurts me and they have, after all, done no harm. But then there was no alternative. It was necessary to decide: peace or breaking the peace. And then I told them: I do not want your children to be killed in a new war. And, after all, on this matter, too, there was a mistake about me: Since I headed a fighting organization for nearly 5 years, they assumed that I was a man of war and the truth was that all my life I hated war and I do hate it. There is nothing more alien or hated by me than bloodshed. All my friends who fought with me know this. I would like to give our people a historic period of peace. The phenomenon of war between nations is not unique to us. All the nations have had wars but in the end they came to peace, which is inevitable. And together with my friends I aspired to making a sort of breakthrough to peace. The peace treaty with Egypt is such a breakthrough. I simply mean to give this nation peace for a historic period of time. And so I said to the Rafah approaches settlers: I also had to think about your children. Most of them then understood these words. But I repeat: the most difficult thing in this period was the decision to evacuate the Rafah approaches.

[Question] But you will certainly be happy to return here if you are elected again in the next elections?

[Answer] The problem is neither one of joy, nor one of sorrow. I know what I aspire to. I know the right way, as I see it, that we must take. The decision is in the hands of the nation and in a democracy everyone believes in its victory. If the nation permits us to establish a government, then we will found it and we will serve the nation as I said 4 years ago, with a believing heart.

BEGIN MEETS WITH UNIFIL COMMANDER 21 APR

TA210943 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0927 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] Prime Minister and Defense Minister Menahem Begin met today with UNIFIL Commander William Callaghan. At the meeting the prime minister said that at the end of last week he told the IDF to treat UNIFIL with the utmost understanding, to cooperate with it and to refrain from attacking UN forces.

Political correspondent Gad Becker reports that both parties expressed satisfaction with the improved relations between the IDF and UNIFIL. The prime minister said some UNIFIL units actively block terrorists who attempt to enter the area. General Callaghan said that that is UNIFIL's duty and UNIFIL will continue to carry it out. The recent aggravation of the situation in Lebanon was not extensively discussed, our correspondent reports.

AIR COMMANDER SAYS TERRORISTS TRAINING PILOTS

TA162011 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Apr 81

[Text] Air Force Commander Maj Gen David 'Ivri says that the terrorists have pilots who are training in fighter aircraft and in helicopters. They are apparently trying to build up air strength. Interviewed by the air force magazine, 'Ivri says that air strength which is not backed by national responsibility is liable to carry out actions that a state would not. They will not conquer the State of Israel, says Major General 'Ivri, but they can cause us material and morale damage. The air force is prepared to combat the gliders, and Major General 'Ivri does not think that the penetration of Israel by gliders was a one-time phenomenon.

RABIN TERMS HAIG'S APPROACH 'SIMPLISTIC'

TA171105 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Apr 81 Passover Supplement p 6

[Yitzhaq Rabin commentary: "Alexander Haig: A Visit That Failed"]

[Text] It would be true to say that the first Middle East visit of the U.S. secretary of state of the new administration did not come off well. The purpose of the visit of Alexancer Haig, one of the formulators of U.S. foreign policy, was defined in advance as an examination of the Reagan administration's new approach to this stormy region.

The Reagan administration, and particularly Alexander Haig, has tried to work out a policy based on a new approach to the handling of the complex of problems facing the United States in the Middle East. The thrust of that approach is to differentiate between building a structure to halt Soviet expansion, and the handling of local conflicts, primarily the Arab-Israeli conflict. Haig, on his tour of the region, sought to propose that the containment of the Soviets be dealt with as if local conflicts did not exist--and to deal with the solution of the local conflicts without success or failure in that enterprise having any influence on the alignment for halting Soviet expansionism.

Haig's approach, which seeks to separate the local conflicts from the interbloc struggle for influence in the Middle East, is simplistic and is incompatible with the complexity of the situation in this arena. Experience shows that no sharp and clear line can be drawn between the local conflicts and the interbloc struggle. The two are interwoven and intertwined. It is difficult to tackle one without perceiving its implications for the other.

We have seen this before: for example, when Dr Kissinger dealt with the Israeli-Egyptian conflict, he knew quite well the degree of interaction between the two levels of the conflict in the Middle East. So what did he do? [paragraph continues]

He tackled it by making progress in the negotiations between Cairo and Jerusalem on an interim settlement in Sinai (1975) conditionally dependent on Egypt's severance from Soviet influence and on its rapprochement with the United States.

Haig, who sought the exact opposite--to separate the two levels of the conflict--received negative answers from the three pro-Western Arab states in this part of the world. Egypt made it clear to him that equal priority must be given to both the continuation of the peace process on the basis of the Camp David agreements and to dealing with containment of Soviet expansion. Egypt emphasized that these two issues ought to be seen as one problem. Jordan and Saudi Arabia, apparently after coordinating their positions, went even further. They gave higher priority to the solution of the Palestinian problem as part of and as a condition for comprehensive regional cooperation with the United States for curbing the Soviet Union. Saudi Arabia and Jordan also emphasized that they are not prepared to regard the Camp David agreements as acceptable for the purpose of continuing the peace process with Israel.

Of course, the postures of Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia do not prevent the continuation of regular cooperation on a bilateral basis between each of them separately and the United States. However, the hard fact remains: Cairo, Amman and Riyadh rejected Alexander Haig's new proposals. Their replies left no room for any misunderstandings. The result: failure.

If it was Haig's intention on this visit to the Middle East to bring about a relaxation of tension between Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, as one of the means necessary for creating an infrastructure for the alignment to halt penetration into this region--even in this respect his attempt was unsuccessful. He did not achieve a thing. The conflicting positions of Egypt on the one hand and Jordan and Saudi Arabia on the other concerning the Camp David agreements were revealed in their full gravity.

And if it was in Haig's mind to obtain U.S. military bases in the countries of this region--in order to increase the U.S. military presence and to strengthen his country's credibility--here, too, bitter disappointment awaited him. The reply of the three countries was unequivocal: Out of the question; bases will not be provided. At best, the possibility will be given of using the services of existing bases.

It seems to me that many people in Israel who are pinning their hopes on the conversion of the Sinai air force bases--Ezyon and Etam--into U.S. bases within the framework of the multinational force, will read carefully the significance of Egypt's answer in principle on this matter. What is implied by Egypt's reply is that, for those bases to be at the disposal of the multinational and U.S. force, the infrastructure must be in the hands of the Egyptian Air Force. This is the real meaning of providing services but not bases.

What does this mean from our point of view? It has been agreed in the peace treaty with Egypt that after the evacuation of Sinai by the IDF in April 1982, the air force bases will be held by an Egyptian civilian aviation staff and will no longer serve the Egyptian Air Force. To provide services for the Americans at that base has only one meaning: that Egyptian Air Force crews will be at Etam and 'Ezyon. It is therefore advisable to weigh carefully whether there is a place for the Israeli request to have U.S. air power made part of the multinational force, if the Egyptians indeed hold fast to their view in this matter.

While Haig was on his tour of the Middle East, there was growing opposition in the United States, and especially in the Senate, to the sale of AWACS to Saudi Arabia. That opposition was certainly not overlooked by the rulers in Riyadh, nor did it add to the Reagan administration's credibility in the eyes of the Saudis. The fact that the Saudi Arabian defense minister went to the United States in order to deal with this matter attests to Saudi concern about the growing opposition in the U.S. Senate to the supply of these aircraft.

Be that as it may, the Reagan administration will now have to reexamine its basic attitude toward the complex of Middle East issues. The administration in Washington will have no alternative but to seek a policy that will include and relate to both the Arab-Israeli conflict and the building of a containment system against Soviet expansionism.

EGYPT REDUCES PRICE OF OIL SOLD TO ISRAEL

TA160842 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 16 Apr 81

[Text] Egypt has complied with Israel's request and has officially announced it is reducing the price of oil Israel buys from it. A barrel of fine oil will now cost $37.50 instead of $40.50. The price of another kind of oil will now cost $35.50 instead of $37. This announcement was confirmed by the fuel authority director, Shim'on Gilbo'a, in answer to a question by correspondent Gadi Sukenik. The price reduction will save Israel more than $20 million per annum. Egypt supplies Israel with about 2 million tons of oil annually, according to a standing contract, and Israel is now Egypt's most important client. Israel asked for the reduction because Egypt's prices were high relative to international market prices.

MAJOR HADDAD ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL FOR 'REST'

TA201824 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1735 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] Haifa, 20 Apr--The southern Lebanon Christian militia commander, Maj Sa'd Haddad, who is hospitalized at the Haifa Rambam Hospital, has undergone a series of thorough medical examinations that showed that there is not a slight trace of a heart attack. As a result, the physicians at the intensive coronary care unit decided to transfer him to the internal department. On Sunday evening Major Haddad felt bad and was transferred by IDF helicopter to the Haifa Rambam Hospital, where he was admitted to the intensive care unit. Medical checkups revealed that there is no indication of a coronary. After he had passed a quiet night in the intensive care unit, it was decided that he should be transferred to the hospital's internal department for a rest. Journalists and television camermen waited for many hours outside the intensive care unit but military policemen stationed at the entrances to the department prevented them from coming in contact with Haddad. Senior IDF officers, relatives and a delegation from the village of Al-Qulay'ah in southern Lebanon visited Haddad today at the Rambam hospital in Haifa. Many brought him flowers.

OTRAG TO BUILD SATELLITE LAUNCH SITE IN SYRIA

TA211145 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Apr 81 p 1

[By UK correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] London, 20 Apr (special for HA'ARETZ)--A West German arms manufacturer recently signed a contract with the Government of Syria for the construction of a satellite launching site. This was reported to me by military sources in London. According to the sources, the Munich-based OTRAG signed a contract similar to the one it had signed with Libya. The contract says German scientists and technicians will build communications satellites, to be launched from the pad in Syria, for consumers throughout the world.

ALGERIA

NONALIGNED CONFERENCE ON NAMIBIA ENDS 20 APR

Ben Yahia Closing Speech

LD202039 Algiers APS in English 1107 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] Algiers, 20 Apr (APS)--"The time of tergiversation is definitely past," Mr Mohamed Seddik Ben Yahia, the Algerian foreign minister, declared in a Non-Aligned Coordination Bureau extraordinary session on Namibia closing speech yesterday in Algiers. He said that a certain number of measures "giving the full extent of non-aligned commitment beside peoples oppressed and aggressed by an implacable and inhuman enemy, colonialism," have been taken during this session.

He denounced in the wake of the non-aligned participant orators the attempts "to discharge the UN of the Namibian question," saying that "this session has given (the question) its full dimension as a decolonization problem of which the solution should not be longer delayed." He added that "the Namibian people's accession to independence is ineluctable."

The foreign minister urged the international community and the powers that have privileged links with the Pretoria regime to induce South Africa to conform to international legality.

Mr Ben Yahia called on non-aligned member states to substantially contribute to the Namibia fund created during the Havana summit to concretely express their solidarity with the Namibian people's struggle under the leadership of its legitimate leader, SWAPO, and thus assess that the Namibian people's struggle against colonial oppression is "our own struggle." He stressed on the means to put into force to help Namibia accede to independence and counter Pretoria's "irresponsible and dangerous threats to peace and security in the area."

Final Communique

LD202042 Algiers APS in English 1114 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] Algiers, 20 Apr (APS)--Foreign ministers of the non-aligned countries reassessed their solidarity and full support to the Namibian people in their struggle for independence, under the leadership of their unique and legitimate representative, the South West African Peoples Organization (SWAPO).

In a final communique released here after the end of the extraordinary ministerial conference of the Non-Aligned Coordination Bureau on Namibia, the non-aligned countries vigorously condemned "the systematic policy of destabilization, provocation and aggression of the racist regime of Pretoria which constitutes a threat to international peace and security."

They denounced manoeuvres of certain Western powers aimed at delaying the application of the settlement plan, included in resolutions of the U.N. Security Council. They particularly denounced the U.S. Government "which also attempts to destabilize Angola and other independent states of the region and encourages the apartheid regime in its policy of aggression against front line countries, and in its continued violation of resolutions and principles of the U.N., the O.A.U. and the Non-Aligned Movement.

After recalling "the prime and direct responsibility of the U.N. vis a vis Namibia, the final communique reiterated "the solemn commitment of non-aligned countries to reinforce their moral, political, military, diplomatic and material support to enable the Namibian people achieve their national, political, economic and social liberation."

The non-aligned communique condemned with the same firmness the growing cooperation between racist regimes of Pretoria and Tel Aviv, particularly in the military and nuclear fields.

The non-aligned reasserted their full support and solidarity to Angola, Botswana, Mozambique and Zambia, in the defence of their sovereignty and territorial integrity, facing the repeated aggressions of the racist regime of Pretoria.

They referred several times to the U.N. Security Council's Resolution 435 itself following from the Declaration 1514 of the U.N. General Assembly relating to accession to independence of the colonial countries and peoples. [sentence as received] In this respect, the communique reaffirmed one of the non-alignment basic principles which is the anti-colonial struggle.

The non-aligned particularly insisted on total liberation of Africa.

These provisions (Declaration 1514 and the principle of decolonisation) apply to the Saharan problem. In this connection, the New-Delhi's ministerial conference reaffirmed the Saharan people's right to self-determination.

MAURITANIA

AL-QADHDHAFI HOLDS THIRD MEETING WITH HAYDALA

LD201400 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] The brother commander and Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of the Mauritanian state, held a working meeting this morning. The meeting was attended by Mauritanian Prime Minister Sidi Ahmad Bneijara. This is the third working meeting the brother commander and Mohamed Haydala have held since the commander's arrival in Mauritania yesterday evening. The two men held their first working meeting immediately after the arrival of the commander and their second last night.

MOROCCO

HASSAN ASKS UN TO WARN ALGERIA AGAINST AGGRESSION

LD172110 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Apr 81

[Telegram from King Hassan II to UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim--date not given]

[Text] Mr Secretary General: At dawn on Thursday, 16 April 1981, foreign forces coming from across the border attacked the Moroccan post of Sidi Amara and a unit of the Royal Armed Forces stationed north of the Oued Draa in Hasi Aribia. Our Royal Armed Forces unit, which was peacefully attending to its duties, was subjected to a treacherous ambush. As of the time of this message, we have not definitively ascertained our losses in men and equipment. But, according to preliminary reports reaching us, we can affirm to you that 13 of our men were killed and approximately 20 seriously injured. About 10 men are unaccounted for; we believe they were abducted by the aggressors.

The posts raided are located in southern Morocco, inside our international borders and in an area that has never been subject to claims of any kind. Therefore, what we have here is open aggression and a clear encroachment on our national territorial integrity which fall within the definition of the kind of aggression condemned by the provisions of the UN Charter and denounced by the world public.

The forces of aggression came from neighboring Algerian territory and sought refuge there after carrying out their treacherous operation. We have refused to take part in escalating tension, anxious as we are to preserve the region from serious dangers. Even though we found ourselves in a clear-cut case of self-defense we ordered our forces not to pursue the aggressors to their sanctuary, but we see it as our duty to inform you about what happened and to request your firm intervention in order to prevent the recurrence of such aggression that encroaches on our territorial integrity.

Such aggressions are surely likely to threaten the stability and security of the region. But the international community will find that Morocco cannot always stand still with folded arms in the face of aggression directed from outside against its territorial integrity and in the face of encroachments upon its national sovereignty. For this reason, we would be very grateful, Mr Secretary General, if you would take all measures to draw the attention of the Algerian officials to the grave consequences they risk by openly violating the principles of the UN Charter.

SUDAN

MATERIALS ON VISIT OF DJIBOUTI PRESIDENT GOULED

Gouled TV Statement

JN202026 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1815 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Apr (SUNA)--Djibouti President Hassan Gouled has asserted that his country opposes any foreign presence in Africa that imposes on the continent a specific form of rule or political direction. In an interview with Sudanese television today following the conclusion of his visit to Sudan, the Djibouti president expressed his conviction that if differences and conflicts among the African countries could be shunned, it would be possible to achieve peace and accord in Africa by peaceful means. The foreign presence would then be unjustified. He added that he was confident that the concerted efforts between the Sudan and Djibouti will reach results that serve peace and the interests of the peoples living in the region.

On his recent tour of several states in the Horn of Africa, the Djibouti president said that the purpose of this tour was to become acquainted with the viewpoints of officials in these countries on what could be done to bring closer the viewpoints of the leaders of these countries in order to find a common ground. He added: The purpose of this visit was not to play the role of mediator in the differences between the region's states. Now that we have listened to all opinions and acquainted ourselves with the various viewpoints, we can, with the help of our brother President Ja'far Numayri, reach conclusions from the information we have gathered and lay down basic points. These points can then be studied well in order to reach agreements on them.

President Gouled stated that in our moves, we depend on God the almighty and on our good intentions. Indeed, he added, we only harbor good intentions toward our brothers in this part of the beloved African Continent and hope that the region will not be subjected to any external pressures and that the way will open to the efforts currently being made.

The Djibouti president added: Perhaps some people wonder how or doubt whether such a small country like Djibouti can accomplish all this. However, we would like to state that the role which we can play is not dictated by the size of our population or geographical area.

He added: I have discussed this issue at length with my brother President Numayri, and we agreed that we should continue the efforts being exerted. Indeed, our similar viewpoints gave impetus to our march along the path we started on. With the efforts which we in Djibouti and Sudan are exerting, we can reach tangible results that would serve peace and the interests of the region's peoples.

President Gouled stated that he and President Numayri discussed the situation around the Red Sea and the (?schemes) which might transform this waterway into fertile ground for international intervention and the superpowers' fleets. He added that he and President Numayri have agreed to work together to make the Red Sea a region of peace and to bring the viewpoints of the region's states closer.

Numayri TV Statement

JN201545 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Apr (SUNA)--President Numayri said that Djibouti President Gouled and he have agreed to embark on a bilateral move in an attempt to hold a conference for the region's states, particularly for the states that have cool relations with each other, namely Ethiopia and Somalia. President Numayri also stressed that Sudan and Djibouti aim at establishing peace and stability in the region and that both countries oppose war and the use of force in settling disputes.

Speaking in an interview with Djibouti television, President Numayri said that he and Djibouti President Gouled discussed the issues that concern Africa and reviewed the topics that will be discussed at the forthcoming African summit conference as well as the various Arab and Islamic problems. The viewpoints of the two sides, the president added, were identical.

Joint Statement

JN202205 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1745 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Apr (SUNA)--The text of the Sudanese-Djibouti statement:

Upon the gracious invitation of His Excellency President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, president of the Democratic Republic of Sudan, His Excellency President Hassan Gouled, president of the Republic of Djibouti, accompanied by a high-level delegation of ranking officials, paid a working visit to the Democratic Republic of Sudan from 18 to 20 April 1981.

This visit constitutes a symbol of the relations of fraternity and deeply rooted friendship tying the friendly peoples of both countries and translates both countries' desire to further develop and strengthen their relations and their keen desire to maintain bilateral contacts and exchange views on issues of common interest in an atmosphere of mutual understanding, trust and respect.

His Excellency President Gouled was accorded a cordial and warm welcome upon his arrival in Sudan by the Sudanese Government and people. His excellency the Djibouti president and members of his delegation were surrounded with great hospitality during their stay in Sudan, which reflects the feelings of sincere fraternity the Sudanese people have for their brothers the Djibouti people.

Both presidents comprehensively and constructively exchanged views on issues of joint interest. Both sides also discussed bilateral relations, regional and African issues, the Middle East and other international issues of joint interest.

While discussing bilateral relations, the presidents voiced their delight and happiness at the strong fraternal relations between both countries and at their continued development. The presidents underlined their intention to work toward achieving further progress and growth in this regard by increasing cooperation in all political, economic, cultural and technical spheres.

Both sides stressed their faith and confidence that President Hassan Gouled's visit would give further impetus to these already strong relations. They expressed their firm and joint desire to have the appropriate organs in both countries translate the spirit of these fraternal feelings and cooperation into materialistic accomplishments in various spheres. In this regard, they exchanged views on the necessity of forming a joint ministerial committee to implement and follow up all aspects of joint cooperation.

Both sides reviewed the Horn of Africa issues and underlined their complete and serious intention to work toward creating the appropriate circumstances for establishing security and stability and achieving understanding among the various peoples of the region to surmount the consequences of the conflicts and pave the way for establishing a comprehensive cooperation to serve the interests of the region's peoples. In this regard, His Excellency President Hassan Gouled praised the efforts by His Excellency President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri to bring about these noble objectives. His Excellency President Hassan Gouled voiced his complete support for President Numayri's efforts and for his peaceful initiatives.

His Excellency President Hassan Gouled briefed President Numayri on his recent contacts with the heads of states of the region for the sake of serving these same noble objectives. President Numayri expressed his deep appreciation for the efforts by President Gouled in this regard.

Both sides agreed to continue their cooperation and the coordination of efforts to serve the region's security and stability and further entrench the understanding and spirit of cooperation among its peoples.

Both presidents expressed their blessings and support for all the peaceful initiatives and positive contacts that are being carried out by the region's heads of state. The presidents expressed the hope that these initiatives would produce the desired results to serve the prosperity and progress of the region's peoples and the entire African Continent.

Both sides underlined their keen desire to practically implement the principles of coexistance and noninterference in others' affairs, their intention to keep the region far from the threats of foreign intervention and their desire to peacefully solve all disputes.

Both sides reiterated their confidence and faith that the security of the Indian Ocean constituted an indivisible part of the security of Europe, the Mediterranean, the Red Sea and Africa. The presidents agreed to give prominence to the necessity of considering the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea as a peace zone. They also emphasized their keen desire to keep the Indian Ocean free from nuclear threats. Both sides agreed in this regard to appeal to the Indian Ocean littoral states to exert every possible effort to make the Indian Ocean a peace zone.

Both sides expressed their support and blessing for the role adopted by the OAU to deal with African issues in order to achieve security, stability and understanding among the African states. They also praised the OAU's efforts to boost and develop cooperation in all fields among the African states. In this respect, they stressed their belief in the need to peacefully solve disputes among the African states within the African family and in accordance with UN resolutions and the OAU Charter. They called for the development of comprehensive cooperation among African states in the service of the development and progress of all African people. They agreed that easing world tension must include Africa. In this respect, the presidents reviewed the Chadian problem and its repercussions on the peace, security and stability of the African states. They agreed on the need to achieve an effective settlement of the problem through the continued efforts of the 12-member committee delegated by the OAU for this purpose.

Both sides reiterated their complete condemnation of the policy of apartheid. They also stressed their total solidarity with the people of South Africa and the need to mobilize the efforts of all peace-loving people along with those of the African people to completely erase the hated apartheid from southern Africa. They called on states to increase their pressure on that racist regime by completely adhering to the UN boycott resolutions.

Both sides expressed their complete support for the liberation forces' armed struggle and called for ending all forms of hegemony, imperialism and apartheid.

They also called for a prompt and total withdrawal of the racist regime's forces from Namibian territory and declared their support for Namibia's complete independence and unity of its lands under the leadership of SWAPO, the sole legitimate representative of the people of Namibia, on the bases of UN and OAU resolutions. In this respect, they praised the United Nations and its secretary general's efforts to secure Namibia's independence and expressed their support and appreciation for these efforts.

In regard to Arab-African cooperation, the presidents expressed their deep belief that Arab-African cooperation was of vital strategic importance for Africa and the Arab world. Therefore, both leaders reiterated their desire to bolster Arab-African solidarity and cooperation in accordance with the 1977 Cairo summit.

The presidents reviewed the Middle East situation. They stressed their firm stand calling for a prompt and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem, total Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab lands, including Jerusalem, and the achievement of the Palestinians' legitimate rights, including their right to establish their sovereign independent state in Palestine.

The leaders reviewed the situation in the southern part of fraternal Lebanon. They denounced the brutal attacks carried out by the Zionist enemy against that part of the fraternal country and called on the world community to shoulder its responsibilities toward the Lebanese and to preserve Lebanon's sovereignty and unity of its land.

The presidents dealt with the Iraqi-Iranian conflict and expressed their deep regret and anxiety over the continued war between the two Islamic countries. In this respect, they stressed their belief in the need to peacefully end the conflict by negotiations. They renewed their confidence in and support for the efforts of the good offices committee set up by the At-Ta'if Islamic summit to establish reconciliation and peace between both fraternal countries in the service of their joint aspirations for progress and prosperity. Both presidents expressed their blessings for the efforts exerted by the nonaligned good offices committee in this respect to forestall attempts of foreign intervention in the region and praised the UN's efforts to peacefully settle this conflict.

Both sides expressed their support for the UN's efforts to achieve peace and progress in the world and expressed the conviction that the policy of detente must include the entire world to achieve security and peace for the human race.

They expressed their deep belief in the need to peacefully solve disputes in accordance with the UN charter and denounced all forms of foreign intervention in other countries' affairs. Both sides called on the world community, particularly the industrial states, to actually respond through the proper establishments to the aspirations and needs of the developing countries. They called for the establishment of a new world economic system based on equality and justice as the only means to guarantee peace and security among the world's peoples.

Both sides stressed the importance of resuming and continuing the North-South dialogue and called on the industrial states to tangibly increase their aid to the developing ones. Both sides stressed the need to continue contacts and exchange visits on all levels to strengthen cooperation and understanding between them and to exchange views on all issues of mutual interest.

At the end of the visit, His Excellency President Hassan Gouled expressed his warm gratitude and appreciation for the fraternal reception he was accorded by the president, government and people of Sudan. He also expressed his appreciation for the hospitality he and his delegation were accorded during their presence in Sudan, their second homeland. President Hassan Gouled invited Brother President Ja'far Numayri to visit the fraternal Republic of Djibouti. His Excellency President Numayri gratefully accepted the invitation, the date of which will be fixed later.

MIRGHANI VIEWS LIBYAN THREAT, EGYPT RELATIONS

NC150825 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0740 GMT 15 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA)--Sudanese Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Muhammad Mirghani has said that Libya has opened military camps to train some Sudanese and African citizens to use them in its aggressive plans against Sudan. Libya has also established military airports some miles from the Western Sudanese border. This confirms that the present threat in Chad is mainly directed against the security and safety of Egypt and Sudan. In an interview published today in AKHIR SA'AH magazine, Mirghani said that behind its campaign against Sudan, Libya is concealing its real intentions--threatening Sudan's security and safety through its armed interference in Chad.

Mirghani affirmed that Sudan did not break off relations with Egypt and that its stand at the Baghdad summit conference was obvious and clear because the relations between Egypt and Sudan are eternal, brotherly and fateful ones.

Answering a question regarding the Libyan regime's contacts with some Arab states to persuade them to break off relations with Sudan in light of the exchange of ambassadors between Egypt and Sudan, he said: Our relations with Egypt were not broken off because they are eternal relations. We in Sudan need not talk about our firm and well-known stands regarding its support of the Palestine question because this is the whole Arab nation's duty as it is their main pan-Arab issue. He added that it is noted that Sudan's sons have participated, and shed their blood, on the battlefields of all the Arab-Israeli wars. Sudan will continue to do so.

TUNISIA

SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION TALKS HELD WITH MEXICO

FL201405 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1547 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Text] Tunis, 19 Apr (NOTIMEX)--Tunisia and Mexico are cooperating in fields dealing with scientific research work and agriculture. This was the central point in talks held by the Tunisian ministers of agriculture and higher education and a delegation of the Mexican National Council of Science and Technology headed by its director general, Dr Edmundo Flores, which is currently visiting Tunis. The two sides particularly examined the following scientific projects: desalination of water by building a plant for the desalination of sea water which uses solar energy; production of photoelectric cells; and capability for the processing of nitrogen by plants.

WESTERN SAHARA

COMMUNIQUE CITES VICTORIES OVER MOROCCAN FORCES

LD201410 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] According to a statement issued by the Saharan Information Ministry, the forces of the Saharan People's Liberation Army yesterday attacked and occupied a number of positions belonging to the Moroccan royalist forces at Smara. The Saharan attack killed 124 soldiers and wounded and equal number. In addition, the attackers seized huge quantities of military hardware and captured 10 Moroccan soldiers, including an officer. The statement added that the attack, which follows only 3 days after the occupation of the Moroccan garrison at Sidi Amar, records yet another victory for the Saharan Liberation Army in the face of the king's insistence on the occupation of the Western Sahara and his expansionist ambitions in the area.

The statement also referred to the results of attacks by Saharan fighters on 17 April against an advanced Moroccan position at a place north of Zak on the Moroccan-Saharan border. The attack resulted in the killing of 9 Moroccan soldiers, the wounding of an equal number and the taking of 2 other prisoners. The Saharan forces on 18 April shelled Moroccan positions at Bir Enzaran using heavy guns. The shelling lasted for 20 minutes.

SOMALIA

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON VISIT BY DJIBOUTI PRESIDENT

LD171356 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1850 GMT 16 Apr 81 EA

[Text] President of the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] Challe Muhammad Siad Barre and President of the Republic of Djibouti Mr Hassan Gouled Aptidon jointly released a communique after the 6-day official visit to the SDR by the president of the Republic of Djibouti.

Mr Hassan Gouled Aptidon, president of the Republic of Djibouti, made his first state visit to Somalia on 10 April, the first since his country became independent. On arrival at Mogadishu Airport he was accorded a very warm welcome by President of the SDR Challe Muhammad Siad Barre, and by a very large crowd which gathered along the presidential route to Villa Somalia, while others were on the rooftops to get a glimpse of this great statesman.

While in the SDR, President Hassan Gouled Aptidon visited various parts of the country and held official talks with President Muhammad Siad Barre. The talks between the two presidents were held in an atmosphere of fraternal, cordial and complete understanding. The talks between the two presidents, which were of great value to their peoples, were on bilateral relations and also included an exchange of views on important matters concerning the two countries, and on other matters pertaining to the Horn of Africa and the world at large. With that in mind the two sides signed a friendship and cooperation agreement and an agreement on the extradition of criminals and other fugitives.

The joint communique between Somalia and Djibouti said the two presidents contracted to execute those agreements and other undertakings, including: cooperation in the fields of commerce, tourism, transportation and communications, and reciprocal visits by their citizens.

On the problem of the Horn of Africa, the two presidents noted in the communique their conviction of the need to explore the possibilities of establishing peace and stability in the region, in the interests of the peoples in the Horn of Africa. The two sides once again pointed to the principle of self-determination as enshrined in the Charters of the United Nations and the OAU. The two presidents expressed concern over the refugee problem in the Horn of Africa and agreed to work toward finding a solution to it.

On the Red Sea situation, the two presidents stressed the need to maintain the security and stability of the region in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations, the Arab League and the organization of the nonaligned countries.

Turning to the Middle East, the two presidents declared their support for the people of Palestine in their struggle to regain their homeland and for their right to form an independent government, led by the PLO. They urged Israel to withdraw from the Arab land which it occupied in 1967 and called for the liberation of the holy city of Jerusalem.

The two presidents also expressed concern over the war between the two sister Muslim states of Iraq and Iran and called for a cease-fire. The two presidents declared their support for the efforts of the Islamic good offices committee, the United Nations and the nonaligned countries, in their search for a peaceful solution to the conflict between Iran and Iraq.

At the end of his visit, President Hassan Gouled Aptidon expressed deep appreciation of the warm welcome accorded to him and to his delegation during their visit and thanked the president of the SDR, the Somali people and the government. He also invited the president of the SDR to visit Djibouti.

CAMEROON

FRENCH DEFENSE MINISTER VIEWS CHAD, COOPERATION

AB201507 Paris AFP in French 1311 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] Yaounde, 18 Apr (AFP)--The French minister of defense and cooperation, Robert Galley, stated Monday in Yaounde that the withdrawal of Libyan troops from Chad is the key to the economic revitalization of that country.

Mr Robert Galley, who was replying to a question by newsmen after his audience with Cameroonian head of state Ahmadou Ahidjo, added that this problem was a particularly African one and that any peacekeeping force to be set up can only be composed of Afrian troops.

In another development, the French minister indicated that during his 4-day visit to Cameroon, he and President Ahidjo discussed in detail all aspects of bilateral cooperation between France and Cameroon. They examined the conditions for the rural development of that country, because rural development is an absolute priority. This would especially help keep rural population in their villages and keep desert encroachment from affecting the rural areas.

Mr Galley added that they also discussed the implementation of the Benoue Valley Development Project in north Cameroon, the rehabilitation of agricultural farms in the Yaounde area and in Bafoussam (Ouest province) as well as the economic importance of Kribi hinterland in the southwest (natural gas and oil deposits have been discovered off this small city on the coast).

The minister indicated that they also examined cooperation between French and Cameroonian industrial enterprises. He noted that they stressed the need to develop small and medium-size enterprises with the help of French know-how or the assistance of small French specialized enterprises. This would contribute to the expansion of Cameroon's industrial network at the beginning of the great economic boom which this country will go through in the next few years.

Lastly, according to Mr Galley, at the request of Cameroon, France is considering sending a certain number of experts as advisers to assist the management of state enterprises, administration and finance services.

Mr Robert Galley left Yaounde on Monday afternoon for Paris.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

NEW OPPOSITION MOVEMENT HOLDS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

AB201745 Paris AFP in French 1422 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] Bangui, 20 Apr (AFP)--Mr Francois Pehoua, independent candidate in the last CAR presidential elections, on Monday organized the first national conference of his movement, the Independent Group for Reflection and Political Action [GIRA] in Bangui.

The opening session was attended by thousands of people, including representatives of the opposition parties in the CAR, notably, Mr Abel Goumba, chairman of the Ubangui People's Patriotic Front-Labor Party and former candidate in the country's presidential elections.

The aim of the GIRA is to participate actively and in practical ways in the political training of Central Africans, and in the economic, cultural and social development of the country, by organizing seminars, symposia, study groups, etc.

Mr Francois Pehoua specified that in the economic field, the GIRA will establish agricultural, trading and industrial pilot enterprises in order to contribute to the improvement of the internal production, fight against unemployment and prepare Central Africans to take their development into their own hands.

BENIN

KEREKOU COMMENTS ON RESULTS OF NIGERIA VISIT

AB161302 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 15 Apr 81

[Excerpts] President Kerekou was welcomed home from an official visit to the Federal Republic of Nigeria this morning by the first deputy chairman of the permanent committee of the National Revolutionary Council, while a brass band played music amid enthusiastic cheers from militants. President Kerekou then inspected a guard of honor and was greeted by members of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Benin and members of the national executive council and the diplomatic corps.

At the VIP lounge of the airport, President Kerekou answered questions from Tervi Kouassi of the editorial staff of radio Benin:

[Begin recording] [Question] Welcome, Comrade President! Comrade President, you have just returned from Lagos, where you undertook a visit of at least 48 hours within the framework of permanent consultation between leaders of two neighboring countries--Nigeria and our country, the People's Republic of Benin--two countries with centuries-old bonds based on geography, history, culture and within the terms of the measures adopted some years ago in Cotonou. Comrade President, does the outcome of your stay in Nigeria confirm these bonds of solidarity, friendship, brotherhood and good-neighbor relations between our two countries?

[Answer] Without hesitation we can say yes. But I also want to add that what we told the militants of the Beninese revolution before we left for Lagos has been amply confirmed during our short but (?impressive) stay in the Federal Republic of Nigeria. We were right in making certain clarifications, and the points raised in these clarifications were confirmed at all levels--at the discussions we held with various leaders of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, that is, from President Shehu Shagari to the delegations of the two countries, including ministers concerned with our visit. We therefore return home quite satisfied that we have accomplished a friendly and fraternal mission to a neighboring country.

We said that cooperation between Nigeria and Benin should be strengthened. We can tell you that the outcome of our visit is very satisfactory, because our talks ended with positive results greatly exceeding what we expected when we left Cotonou, considering the atmosphere prevailing in Lagos--and you know the reason for that atmosphere, which was more or less polluted by the false and unfounded reports published and broadcast by Nigerian journalists. These unfounded reports only tend to create tensions between Nigeria and Benin because the final objective of the (?enemy) is and has always been to divide and rule. But on our arrival in Lagos, which was not our first visit there since President Shehu Shagari came to power, we felt that the people were aroused, and we know that there was something going on in Lagos, even in the streets through which we passed, and the Nigerian authorities themselves confirmed it during the discussions we held at every level.

We made a general survey of the situation in our respective countries, then reviewed the burning questions of Africa, namely the Western Sahara, Namibia, South Africa, and we ended with the Middle East and Asia, etc. In short, we made a complete survey, and we noticed that we held views identical to those of the leaders of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. But there is one point on which we insisted: We asked the Nigerian Government to put an end to this intoxicating campaign that could one day create a situation we could not control ourselves if we are not vigilant, for the enemy is always infiltrating into our ranks, both from within and without our national territories, either in Nigeria or in Benin.

We therefore decided to take radical measures all along our common border, not by demarcating it with pillars--we do not need to mobilize all the active forces of our countries to insure security because there is enough security already--but then we must take certain measures, for we learned in Lagos that the Nigerian authorities are very concerned about arms smuggling.

Next, there will be a border demarcation commission which will soon meet. In fact, the commission already exists, but because of both parties' busy schedules, this commission has remained inactive for some time now. We have therefore decided to revive it, and it will soon meet to undertake the demarcation of our borders. We have also decided to set up a joint commission for our border security. This commission will be entrusted with the drawing up of sanctions not only against smugglers of goods prohibited in the two countries, but also sanctions against corrupt security officers. Those who enter the two countries with goods have legal papers covering those goods, but we have to find out who gives these legal papers to these theives and smugglers. These, in short, are the problems we examined with the Nigerian authorities. [end recording]

GHANA

VICE PRESIDENT RETURNS WITH DAM, FOOD AID PLEDGES

AB160945 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 16 Apr 81

[Text] The vice president, Dr Degraft Johnson, returned home last night from a tour of Europe and the Middle East to discuss economic issues. He told newsmen that the OPEC fund has promised to organize finance for the Bui hydroelectric project by mobilizing donor countries for a meeting to be held late this year. Dr Degraft Johnson said the OPEC fund is also considering additional financing of the Kpong hydroelectric project to the tune of $4 million, while the Kuwaiti fund has also pledged $14.4 million for the project. The vice president said Abu Dhabi has expressed a great deal of interest in the Bui dydroelectric project, and the Arab bank for Africa in Khartoum is considering joining in financing the project.

While in Europe, Dr Degraft Johnson discussed food aid with the EEC. He announced that the EEC is to ship 50,000 tons of rice to Ghana by June. The commission has also overcome certain problems and will start major road rehabilitation work in the western region. The vice president said the European Investment Bank has expressed interest in the Bui dam project and promised to attend the donors conference which is to be organized by the OPEC fund. Dr Degraft Johnson also held discussions with European export insurance institute authorities who have agreed to provide export guarantee cover by ensuring 180 days credit. The vice president was away for about 2 weeks.

LIBERIA

INITIAL MOSCOW-MONROVIA FLIGHT SCHEDULED 21 APR

AB210729 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0625 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] Direct air travel between Moscow and Monrovia will begin today when the Soviet airline, Aeroflot, makes its maiden trip to Liberia at 1030 this morning. This will mark the launching of an international air link between Liberia and the Soviet Union. The countries signed an agreement here in Monrovia in 1979 for the establishment of direct air travel between the two capitals. Today's activities marking the landing of the first Soviet transport plane in Liberia will be held at the Roberts International Airport.

NIGER

SUSPECTED LIBYAN AGENT REPORTED ARRESTED

AB201038 Paris AFP in English 1011 GMT 20 April 81

[Text] Niamey, April 20 (AFP)--Ahmadou Niasse,a key figure in the Senegalese opposition, was arrested in Niger this weekend after entering the country under a false name, a source close to the presidency here said today.

Mr Niasse had entered the country on a non-Senegalese passport under the name of Ahmadoun Khalifa and was now being questioned by police in Niamey, the source said.

He was suspected of working as a recruiting agent for Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and of being one of Libya's main operatives for subversive operations in Western and Central Africa, the source said.

NIGERIA

COMMENTARY EXAMINES U.S. POLICY TOWARD CONTINENT

AB202147 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] A few weeks ago, President Ronald Reagan (?addressed) a letter of appreciation to President Shehu Shagari. In the letter, the content of which was made public, the American leader gave an assurance that he was prepared to work with his Nigerian counterpart toward finding a lasting solution to the political stalemate in Namibia. He also pledged to promote the existing cordial relations between his country and Nigeria. The reaction of many people here to these assurances was cautious optimism.

The reason for this is that the new American administration left a lot of room for doubt as to its correct posture toward Africa. It was not long after President Reagan was sworn in that rumors began to circulate that he was likely to invite Mr Botha to Washington. The American State Department did not deny the rumor, thereby suggesting that it might be a contemplated move. Then there was the visit of four South African military experts to the United States. They were said to have been expelled as soon as it was known that they entered the country under false pretences.

The question still left in the minds of many people who knew about the incident was whether or not the racist officers concluded their mission before they were asked to leave. Also, the White House has lately been mounting pressure on congress to review a 1976 law preventing the American president from intervening in Angola. The pressure is believed to have some bearing on the present American administration's sympathy for Jonas Savimbi and his right [word indistinct] bandits in Angola. This becomes more plausible as the United States is now all out to prevent what it describes the Soviet expansionist moves in different parts of the world. In their own estimation, the United States believes that Angola is one area where this policy could be executed.

This catalogue of events is already pushing some people to conclude that the present administration in Washington must be watched closely. At least, it is already falling into the same trap many of its predecessors have fallen into. And that is the tendency to view Africa as a pawn in the political crossroads between the East and West. Renowned American scholars in international relations have made this same observation in their review of America's relations with Africa. In fact, there is a strong feeling in diplomatic circles in Africa that President Reagan has made up his mind on what to do in the continent.

The American leader may be sending Mr Crocker around to sample opinion of African leaders on the new approach. One hopes that Mr Crocker has heard from one African leader after another that they will not take kindly to any American policy, overtly or convertly, meant to strengthen the white minority's stranglehold on Namibia and South Africa. As a matter of fact, it is up to the United States now to erase the impression that the Geneva conference on Namibia was sabotaged by the racists in South Africa because Mr Botha knew that the American Government was on his side. Furthermore, it will be a costly political error to formulate Africa's policy within global ideological conflict. Instead, the United States should come to grips with the peculiar problems facing Africa today.

In addition to their commitment to the liquidation of white minority regimes in southern Africa, African states are desirous of economic independence. They want to eradicate poverty, ignorance and disease and by so doing, raise the standard of living of the people of the continent. Any foreign policy on Africa that fails to take all this into account is bound to be too superficial and self-defeating.

This is a message the American envoy ought to take home from the continent.

UPPER VOLTA

FORMER CHIEF JUDGE NAMED PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER

AB181013 Paris AFP in French 0923 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Text] Ouagadougou, 18 Apr (AFP)--Mr Charles Seriba Traore, former president of the Supreme Court of Upper Volta, has been appointed a special adviser in the office of the president, a communique issued on Friday by the ruling Military Committee of Redress for National Progress [CMRPN] in Upper Volta announced.

Mr Charles Seriba Traore was relieved of his duties as head of the Supreme Court on 23 May 1980 by the former regime of President Lamizana, who was overthrown on 25 November 1980 by the CMRPN. The Supreme Court under Mr Traore had accepted an appeal by the parliamentary opposition against the election of the speaker of the National Assembly in 1978.

UNIVERSITY STUDENT STRIKE PROVES ABORTIVE

AB172055 Paris AFP in French 1658 GMT 17 Apr 81

[Text] Ouagadougou, 17 Apr (AFP)--A 24-hour strike by the students' association of the University of Ouagadougou on Friday has proved abortive, because the order was not followed by all the students.

Through this action, the association was protesting the arrest of its leader, Mr Jean Iiboudo. Both the government and university officials have refused to explain the reason for the arrest. It is known that only last week the students held a cultural week to discuss a topic which the university officials objected to.

SOUTH AFRICA

SECURITY FORCES KILL 'TERRORISTS' IN OVAMBO

LD170930 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 16 Apr 81

[Text] In South-West Africa the security forces have killed 16 SWAPO terrorists in clashes in Ovambo, in the far north of the territory, during the past 48 hours. The insurgents had damaged telephone line poles and had tried to blow up the road. Further to the south, in the farming areas around Tsumeb, the search is continuing for the survivors of a gang of about 30 terrorists which infiltrated into the area. Eighteen of them have so far been tracked down and dealt with.

ZIMBABWE

MUGABE ANNIVERSARY ADDRESS APPEALS FOR WORK, UNITY

LD211036 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 19 Apr 81 CA

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, yesterday called for hard work and unity based on a policy of nonalignment in international affairs as the cornerstone for Zimbabwe's progress during the country's second year of independence. In an address to the nation on Zimbabwe's first anniversary of independence Comrade Mugabe urged Zimbabweans to continue with the spirit of unity that is embodied in the policy of reconciliation, which he initially demonstrated by including nonmembers of his ruling party in government.

The prime minister stressed that the government is committed to promoting the role of the worker in Zimbabwe and expressed confidence that on the basis of the soon-to-be released report of the commission of inquiry into incomes and prices the government will take positive steps to accord the worker his proper status.

He said that using both local resources and those made available through the recent ZIMCORD [Zimbabwe Conference on Reconstruction and Development] conference the state hopes to make enormous investment in several areas, either in state enterprises or jointly with the private sector.

Comrade Mugabe expressed the country's indebtedness to Britain for its help in the exercise of integrating the former ZANLA [Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army] and ZIPRA [Zimbabwe People's Liberation Army] guerrillas and the former Rhodesian security forces.

The prime minister condemned the incidents of lawlessness and violence that marred the country's first year of independence and stressed that reconciliation was still vital to achieving peace.

On nonalignment the prime minister said Zimbabwe has, during its first year of independence, become a member of world bodies and international agencies. He added that our international policy will continue to be governed by the principle of positive nonalignment.

Comrade Mugabe added that Zimbabwe fully supports the African National Congress and the Pan-African Congress and other progressive forces in South Africa and the OAU stand on Namibia.

MUGABE INTERVIEWED ON FIRST YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE

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[Unattributed interview with Prime Minister Robert Mugabe; date and place not specified--live or recorded]

[Text] [Question] Comrade Prime Minister, if we may start with a fairly general question, looking back on your first year in office, your first year at the head of an independent Zimbabwe, do you look back with satisfaction or perhaps with a sense of disappointment at what you haven't achieved or you might have achieved?

[Answer] I think I have more satisfaction than dissatisfaction. When I started, well, I wasn't a man of experience yet. I was a new prime minister. I had never been a Member of Parliament, and the same goes for every one of my ministers in the cabinet except the two white colleagues. And so we had to find our way. Eventually we got to know the functions that are involved in the various ministries and we also got to know what the areas of need were and where emphasis should lie.

But the most important issue for us was to have the confidence of the community, to ensure that everybody had confidence in the government and so depend on their loyalty to move forward, and to ensure this we agreed on a policy of national reconciliation. And it was on that basis that I made my first address to the nation, appealing for the spirit of reconciliation and that we should forget the past. I think the people have tended to forget the past. I can't say they have forgotten the past completely. Here and there you do get reminders about the past, but I think those are more historical than an expression [passage indistinct].

But the most important issue was to establish peace. Move from a situation of war to a situation of absolute peace. I cannot pretend that absolute peace has been achieved in terms of first engendering the spirit of reconciliation, the transformation of the individual and getting him to accept that the past is gone. We shouldn't be vindictive. We should live together. But I am satisfied that there has been a far greater movement towards reconciliation, and therefore towards peace, than I anticipated we would achieve by this time.

Then, in respect of the actual security situation, once again I am satisfied that by and large we have achieved an appreciable degree of peace, that for a country which not long ago had a very bloody situation we have managed to achieve this degree of peace and calm in the country. I think it speaks of not just our policy as a government but of the preparedness on the part of the people as a whole, both black and white. To ensure that there is the necessary circumstance in which people can go about their duties without any fear of attacks. There have been a few incidents which naturally have tended to give the impression that we were about to engage in a civil war.

But that is how the outside people looked at it; that is how the outside papers looked at it. These incidents were more of an exception than the general rule, and as things are now most of the cadres who were armed and we had put in assembly points are integrated into the army. We still have one or two areas to disarm but the rest have been disarmed, and one can talk in terms of our having achieved peace in that direction.

In respect of other areas we engaged in an exercise of trying to resettle the displaced persons, people who had been affected adversely by the war and had been forced to move out of their home areas into other areas or those who had been rendered fugitives, as it were, or refugees abroad, and I think the exercise of resettling them has been done considerably well. We still have to get more land for the people, and it is in this area that we are still unhappy because the amount of aid that is available from Britain for this exercise is not enough; but I am satisfied that Britain hasn't exhausted its resources in this regard and that there is room for negotiation, if one can go by what Lord Soames hinted to me. Nevertheless we are satisfied and are very happy that the international community has responded favorably to our appeal to pledge support for our endeavors in trying to resettle our people and to develop the country generally, especially the rural areas.

Then there is naturally the area of the public service. We have proceeded in that area by creating structures or revising the old structures in such a way that we were able to advance as many Africans as possible without rendering the white incumbents jobless, and I think we have achieved this exercise, this issue.

We have gone about it as comfortably as possible and also as effectively in terms of advancing Africans as anyone could havedone in our position. There is still a lot of room, of course, for improvement but the exercise was never meant to be completed in 1 year. It is an ongoing one.

In the private sector we have proceeded there by recognizing that the wage gap between the lower-income groups and the higher-income groups left much to be desired, and we proceeded to establish a minimum wage which still needs revision, and to ensure that we go about it systemically by taking certain factors which should be taken from an economic point of view. We established a commission of inquiry into wages which has now completed its investigations and has reported to me. Most of its findings--I am yet to get the third part of the report, it's in three parts, and this will come to me this week--I think on the basis of their findings we'll be able to proceed to improve on the wages existing in the private sector, and I am sure if this is completed one can talk in terms of the wage earner in the private sector as being fairly treated. And so this is the exercise (?overall) we try to do.

Our international relations are favorable. We have not made enemies at all, although South Africa views us with apprehension and constitutes herself as an enemy. We don't regard it as an enemy. We are opposed to the policies in South Africa. We do not regard the people of South Africa as our enemies at all. It is the only country which gives us concern, but otherwise the relations with our neighbors are excellent, indeed. And our policy internationally has been one of nonalignment. We are able to make friends with members of either bloc, Western or Eastern, and that way we feel we have launched our country into the international arena. It has become a member of various international organizations, including, of course, the United Nations and its agencies, the Nonaligned Movement and so on and so forth. I think this way we have made a good start. There is room for improvement but, of course, we couldn't have got everything we wanted to achieve in 1 year.

[Question] Sir, do you feel that a constitutionally racially segregated parliament is a stumbling block towards total reconciliation, in that it causes polarization perhaps even at that level?

[Answer] I don't think it has that overall effect on race relations as such. We have inherited, of course, this phenomenon of racial representation in Parliament. From the discussions or the conference we had at Lancaster House it was considered there that for the whites to have some degree of confidence as to the future we needed to give them separate representation. We are opposed to the principle of racial representation in--I mean, we were opposed to that from both a political and democratic basis. We felt it did not make for the type of democratic society we wanted to create which had to be pervaded by the principle of nonracialism. And of course we had the past to go by. However, we had to accept it because we felt perhaps the white community needed the assurance which Britain insisted it must be, it had to be given.

In principle, however, what we have now is that the white community is represented by the Rhodesian Front and the black community by ZANU and ZAPU and the three members from the ANC in Parliament. We have not wanted to look at the Rhodesian Front as representing all the whites at all, and this is why we proceeded to invite Mr Dennis Norman to join the cabinet in the belief that he would represent a certain group, business groups or the certain groupings in the private sector and not necessarily political groupings but groupings which are specialized in one form of economic activity or another. We did this also out of the recognition that the Rhodesian Front did not have the 100 percent support of the whites. Hence we would want to see a situation where, as we recognize this racial commitment as a constitutional one, the whites would be represented by perhaps some other organization than one with the racial, you know, racial imprint that the Rhodesian Front has.

We feel that the Rhodesian Front has kind of created the impression that the whites, the right of the whites to be represented in Parliament must be expressed through a political party. Now this was not what we had at Lancaster House, and a political party as that which is in the opposition. That dimension is even much more serious and dangerous because if the party representing the whites is in opposition in Parliament then the impression created is that the whites as a community are in opposition to be government. And since the government is predominantly comprised of ministers who represent the blacks then you have the phenomenon of the whites being opposed to the blacks and the blacks to the whites, which we don't want to see perpetuated.

And so it is desirable in my opinion that some other form be found for representing the whites in Parliament. I wouldn't suggest that they should rally behind ZANU and be members of ZANU at this stage, because I know they may have their own different opinions about ZANU and they have not yet that degree of confidence to throw in their lot with ZANU at this stage, and I am prepared that there be some other form in which they can express confidence to represent them in Parliament. That forum, if it has representatives in Parliament, should not set itself as an opponent or opposition party to the ruling party. I think it must have the discretion to go along with certain decisions, go along with certain proposals for bills that are proposed in Parliament, support them on the basis of principle and not oppose them because they happen to be an opposition party and hence resort to the principle of opposition, which is what I described as the principle of negativism in a multiparty state.

[Question] Prime Minister, while you have said that you would not anticipate a mass, if you like, exodus from the Rhodesian Front or from a white party of white members of Parliament to the ranks of ZANU, can you see in the foreseeable future, perhaps, ZANU broadening its base by the addition of white members or by election.

[Answer] Oh, yes, I can see that happening. In fact, if it were to happen now I would welcome it. But we are not in a position where we feel that the whites would necessarily desire to be members of ZANU and so be seen to be working within the ruling party. And so it is not an issue I would force. I think we should leave it to the whites to decide. If in due course we have engendered enough confidence in them and they feel that it is better to be in ZANU and work with us we certainly would be delighted to enroll them as members. Just now they are free to join the party if they would want to.

[Question] The year past, sir, as you mentioned, has been besmirched by one or two serious outbreaks of violence motivated by factional interests or tribal interests. Do you think that a year on Zimbabwe is nearer to being a unified nation that it was immediately after independence last year.

[Answer] Yes. I believe that the incidents that have occurred, in so far as they have marred the path to unity and national reconciliation, have taught all of us a lesson and I think even those who were responsible for them have, I would like to believe, learned from them that these incidents will not promote their cause, that far from dividing the nation they have had the effect of uniting the people behind government and insisting on government taking stern measures against that lawlessness.

Then there is the most comforting feature: That the political parties' leaderships, that is the leadership of ZANU and ZAPU, condemned these incidents and regarded them as unfortunate occurrences, and that on both sides there was political work done to prevent their recurrence. And I think with that spirit we can view the future as a very hopeful one in this regard and that the second year of our independence is going to witness far less incidents than we experienced over the last year.

[Question] In the past few weeks or months, indeed, there have been whispers and rumors, perhaps, of moves towards the reunification or unification of the two big parties, ZANU-PF and ZAPU. How stands the situation, sir? Is this a potential move or is the gulf still too wide?

[Answer] No, the gulf isn't too wide. I think the fact that both ZAPU and ZANU are represented in government has created the hope that what we can achieve at governmental level we can certainly achieve at party political level, and that this would also make the exercise of integrating our forces far much easier. But having said that, I think one should still recognize that ZANU and ZAPU are still different parties, although they have a coalition in government, and that each still pursues its own program of organizing and reorganizing support. But in reality there is not much difference, even in outlook, between ZANU and ZAPU. Both parties are committed to socialist policies. In fact, we worked out the political program for the Patriotic Front as we knew it, that is, the Patriotic Front of ZANU and ZAPU, which collated the various political principles and programs envisaged by each of our two parties and we recognized that we had, in fact, one socialist outlook and that what we desired to achieve by way of objectives in an independent Zimbabwe was identical. And so there is much more room, I mean, much greater room for working together and consolidating our unity than some people might imagine.

[Question] Sir, as an independent African nation and, of course, as a member of the OAU we are now pledged to resist, if you like, or to be antagonistic towards South African political policies and while, as you mentioned, you don't wish to regard the South Africans as enemies, at the same time there is a certain chilling, if you like, of the cold war and an escalation of the cold war. We find hints from South Africa that we might not be as good friends as we were in the past. Is this a worrying situation, sir, this sort of buildup of South African antagonism toward us, and can we resist it?

[Answer] Yes, this situation worries us a great deal. South Africa is very active in a manner which we hold to be completely negative and unjustified. In the first instance, it was South Africa which went on to the offensive. South Africa had troops in this country even at the time we were holding our elections. One exercise which I had to embark on soon after elections was to ensure that the South Africans who had come into the country, the remnants of their army which were here, were removed from the country and I gave that task to General Walls. They were removed but that was not all. South Africa recruited out nationals. It has our nationals in training at the moment as I speak in the Transvaal. Why South Africa has decided to embark on this hostile act one just doesn't know. We ourselves are pledged to peaceful coexistence with it.

True, we are opposed to aparthied. In principle, we couldn't be seen to be supporting an immoral policy. It's inhuman and degrading. And in principle, of course, we can't possibly be seen to be supporting minority rule in South Africa. It's the very thing we fought against in our country. We would want to see democracy in South Africa. We regard that our stand is similar to the stand taken by not just the frontline states and the OAU but by the international community. And so we are not alone in expressing our abhorrence at apartheid, but this is no reason why South Africa should embark on aggressive and hostile activities against us.

We are aware that some of the actions she has taken recently like the termination of the preferential treatment she used to accord to this country must be motivated by a negative attitude towards us, and we expect that she might proceed to take even sterner measures against us. But be that as it may, our own position is that we shall continue to maintain trade relations with South Africa to the extent that South Africa makes it possible for us to do so, and that therefore we would hope that South Africa will reciprocate and not resort unduly to hostile acts against us.

[Question] One final question, sir: Looking into year 2 of the new Zimbabwe, what do you feel should be the preoccupation of the people of Zimbabwe in the year ahead?

[Answer] [Words indistinct] preoccupation must be with hard work. It must be hard work. Hard work in order to be more productive. Whether one has in mind the ordinary worker or the businessman or the ordinary peasant or the commercial farmer, I think it's hard work. We need expansion. Now one realizes, of course, that there are limits to which expansion can take place in farming, in mining, in industry and commerce. There is need for capital. But I think, with the international community willing to invest as much as possible into the country, that aspect can be regarded as having been to some degree answered. Of couse, we have to pay for our money at commercial rates of interest. That is very, very essential. Those who are owners of businesses, the enterpreneurs, must ensure that there is continual planning for expansion, not only to make their sectors productive but also to provide for greater employment. The worker must be made to be more productive, and we who are in the public sector must ensure also that there is hard work there and that government programs are effected as speedily as they can. There is that therefore interaction between us and the private sector. [sentence as heard] I think everybody has a duty during the second year of independence to work hard.

MATERIALS ON VISIT BY SFRY LEADERS 15-16 APR

Mijatovic, Banana Speeches

LD161008 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2107 GMT 15 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Salisbury, 15 Apr (TANJUG)--Zimbabwe, like Yugoslavia, sees in the policy of non-alignment the real security and independence. The rivalry of blocs in threats against the world peace and trends to expand the spheres of their influence on the non-aligned world represent a challenge to our principles of peaceful coexistence, Zimbabwe President Canaan Banana said this evening in Salisbury at a dinner given in honour of Presidency of Yugoslavia President Cvijetin Mijatovic who is currently on an official visit to Zimbabwe.

President Banana stressed that that is why "We must stand shoulder to shoulder in efforts to preserve peace in the world and create a world which will be safe for us and for our future generations."

President Banana stressed that international peace starts for each country on its own (?borders and) that, therefore, Zimbabwe has adopted the policy of good-neighbour relations with all its neighbours.

President Banana recalled that the racist regime of its southern neighbour--the South African Republic, continues its aggression acts against the neighbours and persists in rejecting the right to self-determination to the people of Namibia.

In applauding Yugoslavia's contribution to the liberation struggle of the people of Zimbabwe and in the current building of the country, President Banana evoked memories of the late President Tito--"The pioneer of socialist self-management and independence and non-alignement." President Banana stated the satisfaction because the critics of the Zimbabwe road to socialism were proven wrong in their claims that Zimbabwe was heading into chaos.

In ending, the Zimbabwe president stressed that his country considers the visit of Presidency of Yugoslavia President Mijatovic not only as a manifestation of solidarity which has existed throughout the struggle of the people of Zimbabwe, but as the start of a new era of non-aligned cooperation between the two countries on foundations of mutual respect and benefit.

"Today's disturbing world situation, burdened with numerous difficult problems, makes it necessary for all non-aligned countries to invest persistent efforts in the implementation of the policy of non-alignment," President of the Presidency of Yugoslavia Cvijetin Mijatovic underlined in answer to the toast of Zimbabwe President Banana.

Mijatovic stressed that "respect for the right of African and all other countries to freedom, independence and life in peace and security is a main precondition for world peace and broader trust." Mijatovic assessed as very dangerous the aggressive activity of the racist South African regime towards neighbouring countries, particularly in preventing the decolonization of Namibia and expressed Yugoslavia's support to the efforts invested by the "frontline countries" toward maintaining their independence.

Mijatovic particularly stressed that the victory of the people of Zimbabwe has given strength to all fighters for freedom and the ultimate elimination of colonialism, racism, apartheid and all forms of domination in Africa and added that this victory is a "contribution to the attainment of the objectives of the policy of non-alignment, the establishment of more equitable relations and progress in the world."

In the context of bilateral relations, Mijatovic stressed Yugoslavia's readiness to intensify relations at the political level and urged for closer cooperation between the two countries in the implementation of the policy of non-alignment. Mijatovic assessed that such cooperation between Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe, "countries committed to the policy of non-alignment and sharing identical aspirations and concerns, would be in the mutual, but also broader, interest."

Communique Issued

LD162152 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1305 GMT 16 Apr 81

[Yugoslav-Zimbabwean joint communique issued on 16 April 1981 following the visit to Zimbabwe by Cvijetin Mijatovic, president of the SFRY Presidency]

[Text] Salisbury, 16 Apr (TANJUG)--At the invitation of Canaan Banana, president of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Cvijetin Mijatovic, president of the SFRY Presidency, made a friendly visit to the Republic of Zimbabwe 15-16 April 1981.

On his arrival at Salisbury airport, Cvijetin Mijatovic, president of the SFRY Presidency, was given a warm fraternal welcome by His Excellency Canaan Banana, the president of the Republic of Zimbabwe, government ministers and other high-ranking government officials, as well as the people of Zimbabwe.

Official consultations were held between Cvijetin Mijatovic, president of the SFRY Presidency, and Robert Mugabe, the prime minister of the Republic of Zimbabwe. The talks between the two sides were held in a very warm and cordial atmosphere characteristic of the firm historical links between the two countries and their devotion to the continued deepening of relations between their two countries.

Taking part in the official talks on the Yugoslav side were: Cvijetin Mijatovic, president of the SFRY Presidency; Josip Vrhovec, federal secretary for foreign affairs; Col Gen Janko Susnjar, assistant federal secretary for national defense; Djuro Vukolic, the SFRY's ambassador to the Republic of Zimbabwe; Milivoje Maksic, counsellor of the president of the SFRY Presidency; Rajko Gligorovic, chief aide of the president of the SFRY Presidency; and Ramadan Marmulaku, head of the section for Sub-Saharan Africa at the Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs.

On the Zimbabwean side were: Robert Gabriel Mugabe, prime minister of the Republic of Zimbabwe; Simon Muzenda, deputy prime minister; Nathan Shamuyarira, minister of information and tourism; Emmerson Munangagwa, minister of state; Simbarashe Mumbengegwi, deputy minister of foreign affairs; Isack Mudenge, permanent secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Thomas Muswaka, permanent secretary for economic planning and development; Charles Utete, secretary to the prime minister; Alois Chidada, under secretary for foreign affairs; Lovemore Maziwisa, secretary to the prime minister; and Mishek Hove, a high-ranking official at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Comrade Mugabe paid tribute to the late Yugoslav leader President Tito, who, he said, was a great leader whose contribution to humanity has no equal in modern history.

The Yugoslav delegation was able once again to see for itself that the people and Government of Zimbabwe nurture deep respect for the memory and work of President Tito and sincere friendship toward the peoples of Yugoslavia.

Comrade Mugabe, prime minister of the Republic of Zimbabwe, thanked the people and Government of the SFRY from his heart for the generous help and support which they offered during the struggle for independence and subsequently. Prime Minister Mugabe emphasized the material support, which he said had been of essential significance and timely for the independence struggle. He also emphasized the recent offers of tractors and grants to Zimbabwe and Yugoslavia's role in rehabilitation programs, settlements and renewal, as was witnessed by its active participation in the recent international conference on aid to Zimbabwe, held in March.

During the talks Comrade Mugabe acquainted the Yugoslav delegation with progress and the measures taken to consolidate Zimbabwe's independence, which was hard-earned.

The prime minister acquainted the president of the SFRY Presidency with the policy of reconciliation and rehabilitation, renewal and settlements which the government of the Republic of Zimbabwe has been carrying out since independence.

Comrade Mugabe, the prime minister of the Republic of Zimbabwe, also acquainted Comrade Cvijetin Mijatovic, president of the SFRY Presidency, with the efforts being made by states in southern Africa to reach collective reliance on their own efforts by means of regional cooperation. In this connection, Comrade Mugabe pointed to the work and results of the conference on development and cooperation in southern Africa in those countries' struggle to free southern Africa from economic dependence on the racist regime of South Africa.

The two sides discussed in detail relations between their two countries and established with satisfaction that relations between Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe are characterized by strong links of friendship and a high level of mutual trust and respect, which were established early in the course of the period of the liberation struggle of the people of Zimbabwe for independence. The two sides agreed completely that the degree of cooperation achieved to date between the two countries offers a solid basis for the continued development of cooperation on long-term bases and in the interests of both countries. With this aim in mind, the minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Zimbabwe and the federal secretary for foreign affairs of the SFRY signed agreements on trade and economic cooperation, and on scientific, technical, educational and cultural cooperation.

Later in the talks, the two sides exchanged views on international relations with particular emphasis on the current situation in the world. On this occasion it was noted that views and assessments are identical or very close. The two sides also discussed the activities of Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe on the international scene.

The two sides devoted special attention to the activities of the nonaligned countries and their efforts to solve the most acute international political and economic problems. In this connection they underlined the importance of the ministerial conference of nonaligned countries in New Delhi and judged that it strengthened the Nonaligned Movement's action unity, confirmed its independent and non bloc character and created favorable conditions for its continued activity. The two sides also pointed to the need for full involvement by nonaligned countries in realizing the standpoints and decisions of the conference, as well as for the constant application of the authentic principles of the policy of nonalignment to all international problems and existing crises in the world.

The two sides also underlined the need for the nonaligned countries to strengthen their efforts aimed at the peaceful resolution of disputes and conflicts which arise among nonaligned countries.

During the talks both Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe expressed their concern at the serious deterioration of the international situation.

They see as the main reasons for this the ever increasing use of force, pressure and interference, as well as bloc rivalries which are spreading increasingly to the nonaligned world. They emphasized that world security continues to weaken as a result of the lack of solutions to existing crisis flashpoints and the appearance of new ones, the continuing arms race, the deepening of the world economic crisis and the constant deterioration of the position of the developing countries. They underlined the need to take specific action and measures aimed at remedying the international situation and at an urgent solution to problems on the principles of the UN Charter, the OAU Charter and the policy of nonalignment.

The president of the SFRY Presidency and the president of the Republic of Zimbabwe devoted special attention to the situation in southern Africa and expressed their full support for the just struggle which the people of Namibia are waging under the brave, unified and authentic leadership of SWAPO. They also called on nonaligned countries and the international community as a whole to give active support and help to SWAPO, the liberation movement in South Africa and the frontline countries, so as to speed up the process of decolonization in southern Africa.

They censured, in particular, the continued occupation of Namibia and the unyielding nature of the South African racist regime, which is to blame for the failure of the January talks in Geneva. They underlined their support for the UN plan for independence contained in the Security Council Resolution No 435 and called for its urgent application.

The two sides most sharply denounced the repeated terrorist actions which are constantly carried out by the racist regime in South Africa against the frontline states, and especially against the People's Republic of Angola and the People's Republic of Mozambique.

Discussing international economic relations, the two sides pointed out with serious concern that the position of the developing countries is constantly growing worse and that no essential progress has been achieved in the establishment of a new international economic order. They pointed out that the constantly increasing gap between the developed and undeveloped countries represents a burden for international relations as a whole and therefore also a latent source of instability in the world. They emphasized the need of urgently undertaking concrete measures in keeping with the decisions adopted at the meetings of the nonaligned countries and at the sixth special session of the UN General Assembly in order to overcome the growing problems facing the developing countries.

Discussing the situation in the Middle East, the two sides agreed that a just solution in the Middle East could only be achieved on the basis of Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in June 1967 and the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and establishment of a sovereign state on their national soil and their right to return to their homeland. They confirmed their support for the PLO, which is the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Expressing concern about the situation in the Gulf, the two sides expressed regret about further loss of life in the war between Iran and Iraq and called on both these nonaligned countries to resolve their disagreements in a peaceful manner through negotiations.

In this context, the two sides expressed support for the efforts of the nonaligned countries, the Islamic countries and the United Nations to find a solution for the dispute between these two nonaligned countries.

The Yugoslav side once again highly assessed the heroic struggle of the people of Zimbabwe for their independence and emphasized the great importance and role of the independent Republic of Zimbabwe in stabilizing the situation in southern Africa, as well as for progress in general in Africa. Congratulating the people and Government of Zimbabwe on the first anniversary of their independence, Cvijetin Mijatovic, the president of the SFRY Presidency, expressed pleasure about the successes which the government and people of Zimbabwe have achieved under the leadership of Robert Mugabe, the prime minister of the Republic of Zimbabwe, during the period of independence. He highly assessed the importance of measures which the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe is undertaking in its efforts to strengthen unity, internal reconciliation and the preservation of the sovereignty and independence of the Republic of Zimbabwe. With this in mind, the Yugoslav side will continue in the future, within its possibilities, to be willing to support the further strengthening of the political and economic stability, independence and general prosperity of the people of the friendly and nonaligned Republic of Zimbabwe.

For himself and on behalf of the delegation, Cvijetin Mijatovic, president of the SFRY Presidency, expressed thanks for the warm welcome and brotherly hospitality extended by the people of Zimbabwe during the visit and undertook to convey the best wishes and brotherly greetings of the government and people of Zimbabwe to the peoples of Yugoslavia.

Cvijetin Mijatovic, president of the SFRY Presidency, on behalf of the SFRY Presidency, invited the president of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Canaan Banana, to pay an official visit to Yugoslavia. An invitation was also extended to Prime Minister Robert G. Mugabe to pay an official visit to Yugoslavia. The president of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Canaan Banana, and Prime Minister Robert G. Mugabe gratefully accepted the invitation. Suitable dates for their visits to the SFRY will be agreed later through diplomatic channels.

BRIEFS

FRENCH AID TO MAURITIUS--The seventh session of the Franco-Mauritian joint commission ended its meeting on Thursday with the approval of 16 Mauritian projects to be financed by France for a total amount of FF 50 million during the 1981-82 period. During this seventh session priority was given to the development of infrastructure, agriculture and fishing in Mauritius Island. A greater part of this aid--FF 43 million--was given to these sectors. The remainder, FF 7 million, was allocated to information, health, cultural and technical development. France has also decided to increase scholarship loans to Mauritians in training courses and give 10 more scholarships for the current and next year. [Excerpt] [Paris AFP in French 1213 GMT 17 Apr 81 AB]

IMF CREDIT FOR MADAGASCAR--The IMF has given Madagascar special credit facilities amounting to 109 million special drawing rights (SDR) ($130.8) to be used between now and June 1982. Of this amount, 32.7 million SDR will be available after 15 November. These credit facilities will support the Malagasy Government's economic stabilization program. Madagascar's budget deficit last year reached 19 percent of the gross national product, compared with 12.6 percent for 1979. [Excerpts] [Paris AFP in French 0750 GMT 16 Apr 81 AB]